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Advancement of women

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Anzhela **Korneliouk** (Belarus)

I. Introduction

1. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 11 September 2000, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Advancement of women" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee held a substantive debate on the item jointly with item 108, entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the special session of the General Assembly entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century'", at its 13th to 17th meetings, on 6, 9 and 10 October 2000, and took action on the item at its 24th, 28th, 30th, 43rd, 46th and 47th meetings on 16, 19 and 20 October and 1, 3 and 6 November. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/55/SR.13-17, 24, 28, 30, 43, 46 and 47).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its twenty-second and twenty-third sessions;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (A/55/293);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/55/308);

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/55/38).

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(d) Report of the Secretary-General on trafficking in women and girls (A/55/322);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (A/55/385);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat (A/55/399 and Corr.1);

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (A/55/271);

(h) Letter dated 12 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Windhoek Declaration on the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group and the Namibia Plan of Action on Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective in Multidimensional Peace Support Operations (A/55/138-S/2000/693);

(i) Letter dated 29 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Chairperson's statement on the meeting of the Asian Regional Initiative against Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, held at Manila from 29 to 31 March 2000 (A/C.3/55/3);

(j) Letter dated 3 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/55/4).

4. At the 13th meeting, on 6 October, a statement was made by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (see A/C.3/55/SR.13).

5. At the same meeting, introductory statements were made by the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women, the Deputy Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (see A/C.3/55/SR.13).

6. Also at the 13th meeting, a statement was made by the Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (see A/C.3/55/SR.13).

7. At the same meeting, the Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the Deputy Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women responded to questions raised by the representative of Cuba (see A/C.3/55/SR.13).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.11/Rev.1

8. At the 43rd meeting, on 1 November, the representative of the Netherlands, on behalf of Afghanistan, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France,

Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Samoa, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay and Venezuela, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Working towards the elimination of crimes against women committed in the name of honour" (A/C.3/55/L.11/Rev.1). Subsequently, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Ghana, Lesotho, Liberia, Malta, Malawi, Namibia, Paraguay, the Republic of Moldova and Thailand joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

9. At the 46th meeting, on 3 November, the representative of the Netherlands orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In the third preambular paragraph, after the words "committed in the name of honour", the words "a common feature of which is premeditation," were inserted, and after the words "to provide protection to the victims", the words "and that the failure to do so constitutes a human rights violation" were deleted;

(b) The fifth preambular paragraph, reading:

"*Noting* general recommendation 19 concerning violence against women adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women"

was deleted;

(c) In the eighth preambular paragraph, the words "fundamental changes in societal attitudes are required, and underlining" were replaced by the words "awareness campaigns through print and electronic media, as well as educational programmes, are required to underline";

(d) In operative paragraph 1, the words "those that are identified in paragraph 96 (a) of the outcome document" were replaced by the words "crimes that are identified in the outcome document", and the words "crimes against women committed in the name of honour, which take many different forms" were replaced by the words "crimes against women committed in the name of honour, a common feature of which is premeditation and which take many different forms";

(e) In operative paragraph 7, after the words "elimination of the crimes in question", the words "and on the issue of crimes of passion" were inserted.

10. At the same meeting, the representative of Jordan proposed oral amendments to the draft resolution, by which:

(a) In the third preambular paragraph, the word "premeditated" would be inserted before the words "crimes against women committed in the name of honour";

(b) In operative paragraph 1, the words "those that are identified in paragraph 96 (a)" would be replaced by the words "those that are identified as crimes in paragraph 96 (a)", and the word "premeditated" would be inserted before the words "crimes against women committed in the name of honour".

11. Also at the 46th meeting, the Committee rejected the amendments by a recorded vote of 22 to 80, with 24 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, China, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

Against:

Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Abstaining:

Belarus, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guinea, India, Kazakhstan, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Myanmar, Nepal, Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey.

12. Before action was taken on the amendments, statements were made by the representatives of Canada (also on behalf of Australia, New Zealand, Norway and the Republic of Korea) and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (see A/C.3/55/SR.46).

13. Statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Egypt, Cuba and Pakistan (see A/C.3/55/SR.46).

14. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.11/Rev.1, as orally revised, by a recorded vote of 120 to none, with 25 abstentions (see para. 35, draft resolution I). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of

Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Abstaining:

Algeria, Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, China, Djibouti, Egypt, El Salvador, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates.

15. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Azerbaijan; after the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the United Republic of Tanzania and France (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union) (see A/C.3/55/SR.46).

16. Statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of Jordan, Mexico, Egypt, Indonesia, Cuba, Yemen, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Kuwait, India, China, Bangladesh, Oman, Ethiopia, El Salvador and the United States of America (see A/C.3/55/SR.46).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.12

17. At the 24th meeting, on 16 October, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of Andorra, Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Iceland, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Viet Nam, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Traffic in women and girls" (A/C.3/55/L.12). Subsequently, Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, the Congo, Croatia, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, Israel, Jamaica, Latvia, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Namibia, Norway, Paraguay, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uzbekistan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

18. At its 28th meeting, on 19 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.12 without a vote (see para. 35, draft resolution II).

19. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the United States of America (see A/C.3/55/SR.28).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.13/Rev.1

20. At the 43rd meeting, on 1 November, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, China, Colombia, the Comoros, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, the Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, the Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Elimination of all forms of violence, including crimes against women" (A/C.3/55/L.13/Rev.1). Subsequently, Brunei Darussalam, Maldives, Thailand and Uzbekistan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

21. At the 46th meeting, on 3 November, the representative of Algeria orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) The fourth preambular paragraph, which had read:

"*Reaffirming also* the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century', which, inter alia, calls for the elimination of violence against women and girls, especially all forms of commercial sexual exploitation as well as economic exploitation, including trafficking in women and children, female infanticide, crimes committed in the name of honour, crimes committed in the name of passion, racially motivated crimes, the abduction and sale of children, dowry-related violence and deaths, acid attacks and harmful traditional or customary practices, such as female genital mutilation, and early and forced marriages",

was divided into two paragraphs, so that the new fourth preambular paragraph read as follows:

"*Reaffirming also* the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century'"

and the new fifth preambular paragraph read as follows:

"*Reaffirming further* the call for the elimination of violence against women and girls, especially all forms of commercial sexual exploitation as well as economic exploitation, including trafficking in women and children,

female infanticide, crimes committed in the name of honour, crimes committed in the name of passion, racially motivated crimes, the abduction and sale of children, dowry-related violence and deaths, acid attacks and harmful traditional or customary practices, such as female genital mutilation, and early and forced marriages";

(b) In the former fifth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 2, 6, 8 and 9, the words "all forms of violence, including crimes against women" were replaced by the words "all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century'";

(c) In operative paragraph 4, the words "combating violence including violence against women and girls" were replaced by the words "combating violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century'", and the words "measures taken by Governments for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence and crimes against women" were replaced by the words "measures taken by Governments for their prevention and elimination";

(d) In operative paragraph 5, the words "all forms of violence including crimes against women" were replaced by the words "all forms of violence against women, whether occurring in public or private life";

(e) In operative paragraph 10, the words "to devote equal attention" were replaced by the words "to further devote equal attention" and the words "all forms of violence, including crimes against women" were replaced by the words "all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century'".

22. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.13/Rev.1, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 35, draft resolution III).

23. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Canada (also on behalf of Australia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway and the Republic of Korea), France (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Brazil, the Republic of Korea, Chile and Jordan (see A/C.3/55/SR.46).

D. Draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.14

24. At the 24th meeting, on 16 October, the representative of Canada, on behalf of Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Ecuador, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, San Marino, Slovenia, South Africa,

Spain, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system" (A/C.3/55/L.14), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* Articles 1 and 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as Article 8, which provides that the United Nations shall place no restrictions on the eligibility of men and women to participate in any capacity and under conditions of equality in its principal and subsidiary organs,

"*Recalling also* the goal, contained in the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, of the achievement of overall gender equality, particularly at the Professional level and above, by the year 2000,

"*Recalling further* its resolution 54/139 of 17 December 1999 on the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat,

"*Welcoming* Commission on Human Rights resolution 2000/46 of 20 April 2000 on integrating the human rights of women throughout the United Nations system, in particular paragraph 11, which recognizes that gender mainstreaming will strongly benefit from the enhanced and full participation of women, including at the higher level of decision-making in the United Nations system,

"*Taking note* of the recommendations made by the women Heads of State and Government and women heads of United Nations agencies at their meeting on 5 September 2000, just prior to the United Nations Millennium Summit, to improve female representation within the United Nations system, especially at senior levels,

"*Taking note also* of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of the advancement of women programme and, in particular, its recommendation that an updated Secretary-General's bulletin on policies to achieve gender equality in the United Nations be issued,

"*Welcoming* the decision of the Secretary-General to include, in the performance appraisal of managers, information on the opportunities presented for the selection of women candidates and on progress made in improving women's representation, including through efforts made to identify women candidates,

"*Taking into account* the continuing lack of representation or under-representation of women from certain countries, in particular from developing countries, including, inter alia, least developed countries and small island developing States, and from countries with economies in transition,

"*Taking note with appreciation* of those departments and offices that have achieved the goal of gender balance, as well as of those departments that have met or exceeded the goal of 50 per cent in the selection of women candidates for vacant posts in the past year,

"*Welcoming* progress made in improving the representation of women at the P-5 level, but expressing concern that progress in improving the representation of women at the senior and policy-making levels has slowed,

that the percentage of women appointed and promoted to the P-4 level has declined and at the slow incremental pace at which the overall representation of women in the Secretariat has increased,

"*Expressing concern* that there are currently no women acting as special representatives or envoys,

"*Taking note* of the fact that the statistics on the representation of women in the organizations of the United Nations system are not fully up to date,

"1. *Welcomes*:

"(a) The report of the Secretary-General and the actions contained therein;

"(b) The ongoing personal commitment of the Secretary-General to meeting the goal of gender equality and his assurance that gender balance will be given the highest priority in his continuing efforts to bring about a new management culture in the Organization including full implementation of the special measures for the achievement of gender equality;

"(c) The pledge of the Executive Heads of the organizations of the United Nations system to intensify their efforts to meet the gender equality goals set out in the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action;

"(d) The actions agreed upon by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", to ensure the full and equal participation of women at all levels of decision-making in the United Nations system;

"(e) The inclusion of the objective of improving gender balance in action plans on human resources management for individual departments and offices, and encourages further cooperation between heads of departments and offices, the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Office of Human Resources Management in the implementation of these plans, which include specific targets and strategies for improving women's representation in individual departments;

"(f) The designation of focal points for women in United Nations peacekeeping operations, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the focal points are designated at a sufficiently high level and enjoy full access to senior management in the mission area;

"(g) The continued provision of specific training programmes on gender mainstreaming and gender issues in the workplace, tailored to meet the special needs of individual departments, commends those heads of departments and offices who have launched gender training for their managers and staff, and strongly encourages those who have not yet organized such training to do so by the end of the biennium;

"2. *Reaffirms* the urgent goal of achieving 50/50 gender distribution in all categories of posts within the United Nations system, especially at the D-1 level and above, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, and also taking into account the continuing lack of representation or under-representation of women from certain countries, in

particular from developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

"3. *Regrets* that the goal of 50/50 gender distribution will not be met by the end of the year 2000, and urges the Secretary-General to redouble his efforts to realize significant progress towards this goal in the near future;

"4. *Expresses concern* that, in five departments and offices of the Secretariat, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, women still account for less than 30 per cent of staff, and encourages them to intensify their efforts to meet the goal of gender balance;

"5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to:

"(a) Develop innovative recruitment strategies to identify and attract suitably qualified women candidates, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, other Member States which are unrepresented or under-represented in the Secretariat and in occupations in which women are under-represented;

"(b) Continue to monitor closely the progress made by departments and offices in meeting the goal of gender balance and to ensure that the appointment and promotion of suitably qualified women will not be less than 50 per cent until the goal of 50/50 gender distribution is met, including through full implementation of the special measures for women and the further development of mechanisms to effectively encourage, monitor and assess the performance of programme managers in meeting targets for improving women's representation;

"(c) Enable the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women to monitor effectively and facilitate progress in the implementation of the departmental action plans for the achievement of gender balance and the special measures for women, including by ensuring access to the information required to carry out that work;

"(d) Intensify his efforts to create, within existing resources, a gender-sensitive work environment supportive of the needs of his staff, both women and men, including through the development of policies for flexible working time, flexible workplace arrangements and child-care and elder-care needs, as well as through the provision of more comprehensive information to prospective candidates and new recruits on spouse employment opportunities and the expansion of gender-sensitivity training in all departments, offices and duty stations;

"(e) Strengthen further the policy against harassment including sexual harassment, inter alia, by ensuring the full implementation of the guidelines for its application at Headquarters and in the field;

"6. *Strongly encourages* the Secretary-General to appoint more women as special representatives and envoys to pursue good offices on his behalf, especially in matters related to peacekeeping, peace-building, preventative diplomacy and economic and social development, as well as in operational

activities, including as resident coordinators, and to appoint more women to other high-level positions;

"7. *Encourages* the Secretary-General and the Executive Heads of the organizations of the United Nations system to continue to develop common approaches on retaining women, inter-agency mobility and the improvement of career development opportunities;

"8. *Strongly encourages* Member States to:

"(a) Support the efforts of the United Nations and the specialized agencies to achieve the goal of 50/50 gender distribution, especially at the D-1 level and above, by identifying and regularly submitting more women candidates for appointment to intergovernmental, judicial and expert bodies; identifying and proposing national recruitment sources that will assist the organizations of the United Nations system in identifying suitable women candidates, in particular from developing countries and countries with economies in transition; and encouraging more women to apply for positions within the Secretariat, the specialized agencies, funds and programmes and the regional commissions, including in areas in which women are under-represented, such as peacekeeping, peace-building and other non-traditional areas;

"(b) Identify women candidates for assignment to peacekeeping missions and to improve the representation of women in military and civilian police contingents;

"9. *Encourages* Member States to appoint suitably qualified female permanent representatives to United Nations missions and suitably qualified female heads of delegations dealing with major economic, social, security, human rights and humanitarian issues;

"10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution, including by providing up-to-date statistics on the number and percentage of women in all organizational units and at all levels throughout the United Nations system and on the implementation of departmental action plans for the achievement of gender balance, to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-fifth session and to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session."

Subsequently, Afghanistan, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, the Congo, Croatia, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, the Federated States of Micronesia, Monaco, Morocco, Namibia, the Niger, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Spain, the Sudan, Swaziland, Turkey, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America and Venezuela joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

25. At the 30th meeting, on 20 October, the representative of Canada orally revised the draft resolution.

26. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.14, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 35, draft resolution IV).

E. Draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.15

27. At the 24th meeting, on 16 October, the representative of Denmark, on behalf of Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Mexico, Mongolia, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, the Philippines, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay and Venezuela, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women" (A/C.3/55/L.15). Subsequently, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Belarus, Burkina Faso, the Congo, the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Guyana, Israel, Malaysia, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Togo, Uganda and Uzbekistan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

28. At its 28th meeting, on 19 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.15, without a vote (see para. 35, draft resolution V).

29. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Singapore, the United States of America and Jordan (see A/C.3/55/SR.28).

F. Draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.16/Rev.1

30. At the 43rd meeting, on 1 November, the representative of Nigeria, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, and Mexico, introduced a draft resolution entitled "The critical situation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women" (A/C.3/55/L.16/Rev.1). Subsequently, Austria, Croatia, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Spain and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

31. At its 47th meeting, on 6 November, the Committee had before it a statement on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.3/55/L.33).

32. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.16/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 35, draft resolution VI).

33. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the United States of America (see A/C.3/55/SR.47).

G. Draft decision proposed by the Chairperson

34. At the 47th meeting, on 6 November, on the proposal of the Chairperson, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (see A/55/271) (see para. 36).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

35. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Working towards the elimination of crimes against women committed in the name of honour

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the obligation of all States to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, as stated in the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirming also their obligations under later human rights instruments, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[2] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[3] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[3] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[4] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[5]

Bearing in mind the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[6] as well as the Beijing Declaration[7] and Platform for Action[8] adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, and recalling the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[9]

Bearing in mind also that crimes against women committed in the name of honour, a common feature of which is premeditation, are a human rights issue and that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish the perpetrators of such crimes and to provide protection to the victims,

Aware that inadequate understanding of the root causes of all violence against women, including crimes committed in the name of honour, and inadequate data on such violence hinder informed policy analysis, both at the domestic and at the international level, and efforts to eliminate such violence,

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[2] Resolution 217 A (III).
[3] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[4] Resolution 34/180, annex.
[5] Resolution 44/25, annex.
[6] Resolution 48/104.
[7] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.
[8] Ibid., annex II.
[9] See resolution S-23/3.

Noting relevant paragraphs in recent reports of the special rapporteurs of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences,[10] extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions,[11] and the independence of judges and lawyers[12] and of the Special Rapporteur of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights on traditional practices affecting the health of women and girls, its causes and consequences,[13]

Recalling relevant paragraphs in Commission on Human Rights resolutions 2000/45 and 2000/31,[14] as well as in resolution 2000/10 of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights,

Emphasizing that the elimination of crimes against women committed in the name of honour requires greater efforts and commitment from Governments and the international community, inter alia, by international cooperation efforts and civil society, including non-governmental and community organizations, and that awareness campaigns through print and electronic media, as well as educational programmes, are required to underline the importance of the empowerment of women as a tool,

1. *Expresses its concern* at the fact that women continue to be victims of various forms of violence, including crimes that are identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", and at the continuing occurrence in all regions of the world of such violence, including crimes against women committed in the name of honour, a common feature of which is premeditation and which take many different forms, and also expresses its concern at the fact that some perpetrators assume that they have some justification for committing such crimes;

2. *Welcomes* the activities of States aimed at the elimination of crimes against women committed in the name of honour, including the adoption of amendments to relevant national laws relating to such crimes, the effective implementation of such laws and national campaigns, all of which in some countries have already led to a decrease in the incidence of these crimes;

3. *Also welcomes* the efforts, such as concrete projects, undertaken by United Nations bodies, programmes and organizations, including the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Development Fund for Women, to address the issue of crimes against women committed in the name of honour, and encourages them to coordinate their efforts, and further welcomes the work carried out by civil society, including non-governmental organizations, such as women's organizations, grass-roots movements and individuals, in raising awareness of such crimes and their harmful effects;

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[10] E/CN.4/2000/68 and Add.1-5.

[11] A/55/288.

[12] E/CN.4/2000/61 and Corr.1.

[13] E/CN.4/Sub.2/1998/11, E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/14 and E/CN.4/Sub.2/2000/17.

[14] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 3* (E/2000/23), chap. II, sect. A.

4. *Calls upon* all States:

(a) To implement their relevant obligations under international human rights law, and to implement specific international commitments, inter alia, under the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

(b) To intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate crimes against women committed in the name of honour, which take many different forms, by using legislative, educational, social and other measures, including the dissemination of information, and to involve, among others, public opinion leaders, educators, religious leaders, chiefs, traditional leaders and the media in awareness-raising campaigns;

(c) To encourage, support and implement measures and programmes aimed at increasing the knowledge and the understanding of the causes and consequences of crimes against women committed in the name of honour, among those responsible for enforcing the law and implementing policies, such as police personnel, judicial workers and health personnel;

(d) To establish, strengthen or facilitate, where possible, support services to respond to the needs of actual and potential victims by, inter alia, providing for them the appropriate protection, safe shelter, counselling, legal aid, rehabilitation and reintegration into society;

(e) To create, strengthen or facilitate institutional mechanisms so that victims and others can report such crimes in a safe and confidential environment, and encourages States to gather and disseminate statistical information on the occurrence of such crimes;

5. *Invites* the international community, including United Nations bodies, programmes and organizations, inter alia, through the technical assistance and advisory services programmes of the Centre for International Crime Prevention, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Development Fund for Women, to support the efforts of all countries, at their request, aimed at strengthening institutional capacity for preventing crimes against women committed in the name of honour and at addressing their root causes;

6. *Encourages* the relevant human rights treaty bodies to continue to address this issue, where appropriate;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on the subject of the present resolution, including on initiatives taken by States to work towards the elimination of the crimes in question and on the issue of crimes of passion.

Draft resolution II
Traffic in women and girls

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the principles set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[15] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against

[15] Resolution 217 A (III).

Women,[16] the International Covenants on Human Rights,[17] the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,[18] the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[19] and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[20]

Welcoming the adoption by the General Assembly of the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[21] particularly the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,[22] and the increasing number of Member States that have signed and ratified these Optional Protocols,

Recalling all previous resolutions on the problem of the traffic in women and girls adopted by the General Assembly, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as well as the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others,[23] as well as the agreed conclusions on violence against women adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-second session on 13 March 1998,[24] and the recommendations of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery adopted by the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities of the Commission on Human Rights at its fiftieth session, in August 1998,[25]

Reaffirming the provisions of the outcomes of the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993,[26] the International Conference on Population and Development,[27] the World Summit for Social Development,[28] the Fourth World Conference on Women,[29] the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", held in New York from 5 to 9 June 2000,[30] and the twenty-fourth special session of the Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva from 26 to 30 June 2000,[31] as well as the

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[16] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[17] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[18] Resolution 39/46, annex.

[19] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[20] Resolution 48/104.

[21] See resolution 54/263.

[22] Ibid., annex II.

[23] Resolution 317 (IV).

[24] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/1998/27 and Corr.1), chap. I.

[25] E/CN.4/Sub.2/1998/L.11/Add.1, chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/19, and E/CN.4/Sub.2/1998/14, sect. VI.B.

[26] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[27] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[28] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[29] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[30] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Special Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/S-23/10/Rev.1), chap. III.

[31] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Special Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/S-24/8/Rev.1), chap. III.

Ninth[32] and Tenth[33] United Nations Congresses on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, pertaining to the traffic in women and girls,

Welcoming the inclusion of gender-related crimes in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, adopted on 17 July 1998 by the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court,[34]

Taking note of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, in particular its elaboration of a protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children,

Reaffirming that sexual violence and trafficking in women and girls for purposes of economic exploitation, sexual exploitation through prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation and contemporary forms of slavery are serious violations of human rights,

Seriously concerned at the increasing number of women and girl children, particularly from developing countries and from some countries with economies in transition, who are being trafficked to developed countries, as well as within and between regions and States, and acknowledging that the problem of trafficking also includes the victimizing of boys,

Welcoming bilateral and regional cooperation mechanisms and initiatives to address the problem of trafficking in women and girls,

Welcoming also the efforts of participating Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations at the Asian Regional Initiative against Trafficking in Women and Children, meeting in Manila in March 2000, to develop a regional action plan against trafficking in persons, especially women and children,

Welcoming further the efforts of the European Union to develop a comprehensive European policy and programmes on trafficking in human beings, as expressed in the conclusions of the European Council of Tampere, Finland, 15 and 16 October 1999, and the activities of the Council of Europe and of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in this field,

Acknowledging the work being done by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in compiling information on the scale and complexity of the problem of trafficking, in providing shelter for trafficked women and children, and in effecting their voluntary repatriation to their countries of origin,

Recognizing that global efforts, including international cooperation and technical assistance programmes, to eradicate trafficking in persons, particularly women and children, demand strong political commitment by and the active cooperation of all Governments of countries of origin, transit and destination,

Deeply concerned about the unabated use of new information technologies, including the Internet, for purposes of prostitution, child pornography, paedophilia

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[32] See A/CONF.169/16/Rev.1.

[33] See A/CONF.187/15.

[34] See A/CONF.183/9, art. 8.

and any other forms of sexual exploitation of children, trafficking in women as brides and sex tourism,

Gravely concerned at the increasing activities of transnational criminal organizations and others that profit from international trafficking in women and children without regard to dangerous and inhumane conditions and in flagrant violation of domestic laws and international standards,

Stressing once again the need for Governments to provide standard humanitarian treatment to trafficked persons consistent with human rights standards,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on activities of United Nations bodies and other international organizations pertaining to the problem of trafficking in women and girls;[35]

2. *Welcomes* the steps taken by human rights treaty bodies, the special rapporteurs and subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, other United Nations bodies, and international, intergovernmental and governmental organizations, within their mandates, as well as non-governmental organizations, to address the problem of trafficking in women and girls, and encourages them to continue doing so and to share their knowledge and best practices as widely as possible;

3. *Urges* Governments to take appropriate measures to address the root factors, including external factors, that encourage trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriages and forced labour, in order to eliminate trafficking in women, including by strengthening existing legislation with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and to punishing perpetrators, through both criminal and civil measures;

4. *Also urges* Governments to devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in women and girls through a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy consisting of, inter alia, legislative measures, prevention campaigns, information exchange, assistance and protection for and reintegration of the victims and prosecution of all the offenders involved, including intermediaries;

5. *Encourages* Member States to conclude bilateral, subregional, regional and international agreements, as well as undertake initiatives, including regional initiatives, to address the problem of trafficking in women and girls, such as the Asian Regional Initiative against Trafficking in Women and Children Action Plan for the Asia-Pacific Region and the European Union initiatives on a comprehensive European policy and programmes on trafficking in human beings as expressed in the conclusions of the European Council of Tampere, and the activities of the Council of Europe and of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in this field;

6. *Calls upon* all Governments to criminalize trafficking in women and children, particularly girls, in all its forms, to condemn and penalize all those offenders involved, including intermediaries, whether their offence was committed in their own or in a foreign country, while ensuring that the victims of those practices are not penalized, and to penalize persons in authority found guilty of sexually assaulting victims of trafficking in their custody;

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[35] A/55/322.

7. *Invites* Governments to consider setting up or strengthening a national coordinating mechanism, for example, a national rapporteur or an inter-agency body, with the participation of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to encourage the exchange of information and to report on data, root causes, factors and trends in violence against women, in particular trafficking;

8. *Urges* concerned Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to support and allocate resources for programmes to strengthen preventive action, in particular education and campaigns to increase public awareness of the issue at the national and grass-roots levels;

9. *Calls upon* concerned Governments to allocate resources to provide comprehensive programmes designed to heal, rehabilitate and reintegrate into society and communities victims of trafficking, including through job training, legal assistance and health care, and by taking measures to cooperate with non-governmental organizations to provide for the social, medical and psychological care of the victims;

10. *Encourages* Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to undertake campaigns aimed at clarifying opportunities, limitations and rights in the event of migration so as to enable women to make informed decisions and to prevent them from becoming victims of trafficking;

11. *Also encourages* Governments to intensify collaboration with non-governmental organizations to develop and implement programmes for effective counselling, training and reintegration into society of victims of trafficking, and programmes that provide shelter and helplines to victims or potential victims;

12. *Invites* Governments to take steps, including witness protection programmes, to enable women who are victims of trafficking to make complaints to the police and to be available when required by the criminal justice system, and to ensure that during this time women have access to social, medical, financial and legal assistance, and protection, as appropriate;

13. *Also invites* Governments to consider preventing, within the legal framework and in accordance with national policies, victims of trafficking, in particular women and girls, from being prosecuted for their illegal entry or residence, taking into account that they are victims of exploitation;

14. *Further invites* Governments to encourage Internet service providers to adopt or strengthen self-regulatory measures to promote the responsible use of the Internet with a view to eliminating trafficking in women and children, in particular girls;

15. *Stresses* the need for a global approach to eradicate trafficking in women and children and the importance, in this regard, of systematic data collection and comprehensive studies, and encourages Governments to develop systematic data-collection methods and to continuously update information on trafficking in women and girls, including the analysis of the modus operandi of trafficking syndicates;

16. *Urges* Governments to strengthen national programmes to combat trafficking in women and girls through sustained bilateral, regional and international cooperation, taking into account innovative approaches and best practices, and invites Governments, United Nations bodies and organizations, intergovernmental

and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to undertake collaborative and joint research and studies on traffic in women and girls that can serve as a basis for policy formulation or change;

17. *Invites* Governments, once again, with the support of the United Nations, to formulate training manuals for law enforcement and medical personnel and judicial officers who handle cases of trafficked women and girls, taking into account current research and materials on traumatic stress and gender-sensitive counselling techniques, with a view to sensitizing them to the special needs of victims;

18. *Invites* State parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[16] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[19] and the International Covenants on Human Rights[17] to include information and statistics on trafficking in women and girls as part of their national reports to their respective committees;

19. *Encourages* Governments as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the human rights treaty bodies, the special rapporteurs, especially the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the human rights of migrants, and subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Human Rights and other relevant United Nations bodies, within their respective mandates, to participate in and contribute to the work of the twenty-sixth session of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery in 2001, which will focus on the issue of trafficking;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to compile, as reference and guidance, successful interventions and strategies in addressing the various dimensions of the problem of trafficking in women and children, particularly girls, based on reports, research and other materials from within the United Nations, including the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, as well as from outside the United Nations, and to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.

Draft resolution III
Elimination of all forms of violence, including crimes against women

The General Assembly,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which, inter alia, calls for international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Recalling also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[36] the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women,[37] the Declaration on the

[36] Resolution 217 A (III).
[37] Resolution 2263 (XXII).

Elimination of Violence against Women,[38] the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[39] the Beijing Declaration[40] and Platform for Action[41] adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[42] and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[43]

Reaffirming the obligations of all States to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, as enunciated in the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirming also the obligations of States parties under international human rights instruments, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[44] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[45] the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[46] the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[47] the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment[48] and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[49]

Reaffirming also the outcome document[50] of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",

Reaffirming further the call for the elimination of violence against women and girls, especially all forms of commercial sexual exploitation as well as economic exploitation, including trafficking in women and children, female infanticide, crimes committed in the name of honour, crimes committed in the name of passion, racially motivated crimes, the abduction and sale of children, dowry-related violence and deaths, acid attacks and harmful traditional or customary practices, such as female genital mutilation and early and forced marriages,

Stressing the importance of the empowerment of women as a tool to eliminate all forms of violence against women including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

1. *Expresses deep concern* at the persistence of various forms of violence and crimes against women in all parts of the world, especially all forms of commercial sexual exploitation as well as economic exploitation, including trafficking in women and children, female infanticide, crimes committed in the name of honour, crimes committed in the name of passion, racially motivated

[38] Resolution 48/104.
[39] Resolution 1904 (XVIII).
[40] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.
[41] Ibid., annex II.
[42] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.
[43] Resolution 55/2.
[44] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[45] Resolution 34/180, annex.
[46] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.
[47] Resolution 44/25, annex.
[48] Resolution 39/46, annex.
[49] Resolution 45/158, annex.
[50] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Special Session, Supplement No. 3* (A-S/23/10/Rev.1), chap. III.

crimes, the abduction and sale of children, dowry-related violence and deaths, forced marriages, acid attacks and harmful traditional or customary practices, such as female genital mutilation and early and forced marriages;

2. *Stresses* that all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, are obstacles to the advancement and empowerment of women, and reaffirms that violence against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

3. *Also stresses* the need to treat all forms of violence against women and girls of all ages as a criminal offence punishable by law, including violence based on all forms of discrimination;

4. *Reaffirms* that there is increased awareness of and commitment to preventing and combating violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and in this context, welcomes various legal, administrative and other measures taken by Governments for their prevention and elimination, and calls for high priority to be attached to the further strengthening of such measures;

5. *Urges* Member States to strengthen awareness and preventive measures for the elimination of all forms of violence against women, whether occurring in public or private life, by encouraging and supporting public campaigns to enhance awareness about the unacceptability and social costs of violence against women, inter alia, through educational and media campaigns in cooperation with educators, community leaders and the electronic and print media;

6. *Expresses its appreciation* of the work being done by non-governmental organizations, including women's organizations, community-based organizations and individuals, in raising awareness about the economic, social and psychological costs of all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and in this regard, encourages Governments to continue their support to the work of the non-governmental organizations in addressing this issue;

7. *Calls upon* States to fulfil their obligations under the relevant human rights instruments and implement the Beijing Platform for Action as well as the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

8. *Encourages* the States parties to include in their reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and other relevant treaty bodies, wherever possible, sex-disaggregated data and information on measures taken or initiated to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

9. *Urges* relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their mandates, to assist countries, upon their request, in their efforts aimed at the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and, in this regard, expresses its appreciation of the work being done by the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund

and the United Nations Development Fund for Women and other relevant funds and programmes aimed at preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls;

10. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences, to further devote equal attention to all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, in her work and her reports, within her mandate, to the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on this matter to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.

Draft resolution IV
Improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Recalling Articles 1 and 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as Article 8, which provides that the United Nations shall place no restrictions on the eligibility of men and women to participate in any capacity and under conditions of equality in its principal and subsidiary organs,

Recalling also the goal, contained in the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,[51] of the achievement of overall gender equality, particularly at the Professional level and above, by the year 2000,

Recalling further its resolution 54/139 of 17 December 1999 on the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat,

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2000/46 of 20 April 2000[52] on integrating the human rights of women throughout the United Nations system, in particular paragraph 11, which recognizes that gender mainstreaming will strongly benefit from the enhanced and full participation of women, including at the higher level of decision-making in the United Nations system,

Taking note also of the recommendations made by the women heads of State and Government and women heads of United Nations agencies at their meeting on 5 September 2000, just prior to the Millennium Summit of the United Nations, to improve female representation within the United Nations system, especially at senior levels,

Welcoming the decision of the Secretary-General to include, in the performance appraisal of managers, information on the opportunities presented for the selection of women candidates and on progress made in improving women's representation, including efforts made to identify women candidates,

Taking into account the continuing lack of representation or under-representation of women from certain countries, in particular from developing

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[51] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[52] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 3* (E/2000/23), chap. II, sect. A.

countries, including least developed countries and small island developing States, and from countries with economies in transition,

Taking note with appreciation of those departments and offices that have achieved the goal of gender balance, as well as of those departments that have met or exceeded the goal of 50 per cent in the selection of women candidates for vacant posts in the past year,

Welcoming progress made in improving the representation of women at some levels of the Secretariat, but expressing concern that progress in improving the representation of women at the senior and policy-making levels has slowed, that the percentage of women appointed and promoted to one particular level has declined, and also expressing concern at the slow incremental pace at which the overall representation of women in the Secretariat has increased,

Expressing concern that there are currently no women acting as special representatives or envoys,

Taking note of the fact that the statistics on the representation of women in the organizations of the United Nations system are not fully up to date,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General and the actions contained therein;[53]

2. *Reaffirms* the urgent goal of achieving 50/50 gender distribution in all categories of posts within the United Nations system, especially at the senior and policy-making levels, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, and also taking into account the continuing lack of representation or under-representation of women from certain countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

3. *Welcomes*:

(a) The ongoing personal commitment of the Secretary-General to meeting the goal of gender equality and his assurance that gender balance will be given the highest priority in his continuing efforts to bring about a new management culture in the Organization, including full implementation of the special measures for the achievement of gender equality;[54]

[53] A/55/399 and Corr.1.

[54] ST/AI/1999/9.

(b) The pledge of the Executive Heads of the organizations of the United Nations system to intensify their efforts to meet the gender equality goals set out in the Beijing Declaration[55] and the Platform for Action;[56]

(c) The actions agreed upon by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", to ensure the full and equal participation of women at all levels of decision-making in the United Nations system;[57]

(d) The inclusion of the objective of improving gender balance in action plans on human resources management for individual departments and offices, and encourages further cooperation between heads of departments and offices, the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Office of Human Resources Management of the Secretariat in the implementation of these plans, which include specific targets and strategies for improving women's representation in individual departments;

(e) The designation of focal points for women in United Nations peacekeeping operations, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the focal points are designated at a sufficiently high level and enjoy full access to senior management in the mission area;

(f) The continued provision of specific training programmes on gender mainstreaming and gender issues in the workplace, tailored to meet the special needs of individual departments, commending those heads of departments and offices who have launched gender training for their managers and staff, and strongly encouraging those who have not yet organized such training to do so by the end of the biennium;

4. *Regrets* that the goal of 50/50 gender distribution will not be met by the end of the year 2000, and urges the Secretary-General to redouble his efforts to realize significant progress towards this goal in the near future;

5. *Expresses concern* that, in five departments and offices of the Secretariat, women still account for less than 30 per cent of staff, and encourages the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to meet the goal of gender balance within all departments and offices of the Secretariat;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General in order, inter alia, to achieve the goal of 50/50 gender distribution with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations:

(a) To identify and attract suitably qualified women candidates, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in other Member States that are unrepresented or under-represented in the Secretariat and in occupations in which women are under-represented;

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[55] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[56] Ibid., annex II.

[57] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Special Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/S-23/10/Rev.1), chap. III.

(b) To continue to monitor closely the progress made by departments and offices in meeting the goal of gender balance and to ensure that the appointment and promotion of suitably qualified women will not be less than 50 per cent until the goal of 50/50 gender distribution is met, inter alia through full implementation of the special measures for women and the further development of monitoring and assessment mechanisms to meet targets for improving women's representation;

(c) To enable the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women to monitor effectively and facilitate progress in the implementation of the departmental action plans for the achievement of gender balance and the special measures for women, inter alia, by ensuring access to the information required to carry out that work;

(d) To intensify his efforts to create, within existing resources, a gender-sensitive work environment supportive of the needs of his staff, both women and men, including the development of policies for flexible working time, flexible workplace arrangements and child-care and elder-care needs, as well as the provision of more comprehensive information to prospective candidates and new recruits on employment opportunities for spouses and the expansion of gender-sensitivity training in all departments, offices and duty stations;

(e) To strengthen further the policy against harassment, including sexual harassment, inter alia, by ensuring the full implementation of the guidelines for its application at Headquarters and in the field;

7. *Strongly encourages* the Secretary-General to appoint more women as special representatives and envoys to pursue good offices on his behalf, especially in matters related to peacekeeping, peace-building, preventative diplomacy and economic and social development, as well as in operational activities, including appointment as resident coordinators, and to appoint more women to other high-level positions;

8. *Encourages* the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system to continue to develop common approaches for retaining women, inter-agency mobility and the improvement of career development opportunities;

9. *Strongly encourages* Member States:

(a) To support the efforts of the United Nations and the specialized agencies to achieve the goal of 50/50 gender distribution, especially at senior and policy-making levels, by identifying and regularly submitting more women candidates for appointment to intergovernmental, judicial and expert bodies; identifying and proposing national recruitment sources that will assist the organizations of the United Nations system in identifying suitable women candidates, in particular from developing countries and countries with economies in transition; and encouraging more women to apply for positions within the Secretariat, the specialized agencies, funds and programmes and the regional commissions, including positions in areas in which women are under-represented, such as peacekeeping, peace-building and other non-traditional areas;

(b) To identify women candidates for assignment to peacekeeping missions and to improve the representation of women in military and civilian police contingents;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution, inter alia by providing up-to-date statistics on the number and percentage of women in all organizational units and at all levels throughout the United Nations system, and on the implementation of departmental action plans for the achievement of gender balance, to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-fifth session and to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session.

Draft resolution V
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 54/137 of 17 December 1999 and 54/4 of 6 October 1999,

Bearing in mind that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as stated in Articles 1 and 55 of the Charter, is to promote universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind, including distinction as to sex,

Affirming that women and men should participate equally in social, economic and political development, should contribute equally to such development and should share equally in improved conditions of life,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[58] in which the Conference reaffirmed that the human rights of women and the girl child were an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights,

Acknowledging the need for a comprehensive and integrated approach to the promotion and protection of the human rights of women, which includes the integration of the human rights of women into the mainstream of United Nations activities system-wide,

Welcoming the Political Declaration and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", in particular paragraph 68 (c) and (d),[59] concerning the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto,

Recalling that in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[60] Heads of State and Government resolved to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[61]

Welcoming the progress made in the implementation of the Convention, but concerned about the remaining challenges,

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[58] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[59] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Special Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/S-23/10/Rev.1), chap. III.

[60] Resolution 55/2.

[61] Resolution 34/180, annex.

Welcoming also the growing number of States parties to the Convention, which now stands at one hundred sixty-six,

Welcoming further the adoption and opening for signature, ratification and accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[62] and the subsequent entry into force of the Optional Protocol, thereby fulfilling a goal of the Beijing Platform for Action,[63]

Bearing in mind the recommendation of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women that national reports should include information on the implementation of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, in accordance with paragraph 323 of the Platform for Action,

Having considered the report of the Committee on its twenty-second and twenty-third sessions,[64]

Expressing concern at the great number of reports that are overdue and that continue to be overdue, in particular initial reports, which constitutes an obstacle to the full implementation of the Convention,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;[65]

2. *Expresses disappointment* that universal ratification of the Convention has not been achieved by the year 2000, and urges all States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of full compliance by States parties with their obligations under the Convention;

4. *Welcomes* the fact that, as at 22 September 2000, ten States had become parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, thereby allowing it to enter into force on 22 December 2000;

5. *Urges* States parties to consider signing and ratifying the Optional Protocol;

6. *Notes* that some States parties have modified their reservations, expresses satisfaction that some reservations have been withdrawn, and urges States parties to limit the extent of any reservations they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any such reservations as precisely and as narrowly as possible, to ensure that no reservations are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention or otherwise incompatible with international treaty law, to review their reservations regularly with a view to withdrawing them and to withdraw reservations that are contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention or that are otherwise incompatible with international treaty law;

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[62] Resolution 54/4, annex.

[63] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[64] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/55/38), parts one and two.

[65] A/55/308

7. *Urges* States parties to the Convention to make every possible effort to submit their reports on the implementation of the Convention in accordance with article 18 thereof and with the guidelines provided by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and to cooperate fully with the Committee in the presentation of their reports;

8. *Encourages* the Secretariat to extend further technical assistance to States parties, upon their request, in the preparation of reports, in particular initial reports, and invites Governments to contribute to these efforts;

9. *Commends* the Committee on its contributions to the effective implementation of the Convention;

10. *Urges* States parties to the Convention to take appropriate measures so that acceptance of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention by a two-thirds majority of States parties can be reached as soon as possible in order for the amendment to enter into force;

11. *Expresses its appreciation* for the additional meeting time that allows the Committee to hold two sessions annually, each session of three weeks' duration and each preceded by a pre-session working group of the Committee;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/4 of 6 October 1999, to provide the resources, including staff and facilities, necessary for the effective functioning of the Committee within its full mandate, in particular taking into account the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

13. *Urges* Governments, agencies and organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental as well as non-governmental organizations to disseminate the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto;

14. *Encourages* all relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their mandates, as well as Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, to continue to assist States parties, upon their request, in implementing the Convention, and in this regard, encourages States parties to pay attention to the concluding comments as well as the general recommendations of the Committee;

15. *Encourages* all relevant parts of the United Nations system to continue to build women's knowledge and understanding of and capacity to utilize human rights instruments, in particular the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto;

16. *Welcomes* the submission of reports by the specialized agencies at the invitation of the Committee on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities and the contribution of non-governmental organizations to the work of the Committee, and encourages the agencies to continue to submit reports;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session a report on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution VI
The critical situation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/140 of 17 December 1999, in which it, inter alia, took note with appreciation of the proposal for a new working method of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women through the establishment of an electronic Gender Awareness Information and Networking System, and urged Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute or consider increasing their contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women,

Reiterating paragraph 85 (c) of the outcome document[66] of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", which called for support for national efforts, particularly in developing countries, for enlarged access to new information technology as part of the efforts to develop collaborative research, training and information dissemination, including through the Gender Awareness Information and Networking System being developed by the Institute, while at the same time supporting traditional methods of information dissemination, research and training,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/24 of 28 July 2000, by which article VI, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the Institute[67] was amended with the aim of allowing the Institute to fund its activities on the basis of voluntary contributions from States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, foundations, including the United Nations Foundation, private sources and other sources, in accordance with article VII of the Statute,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[68] which provides an overview of the current situation of the Institute;

2. *Acknowledges with appreciation* that, despite severe limitations, and in compliance with the request of the General Assembly in resolution 54/140, the Institute translated the Gender Awareness Information and Networking System into Spanish and is in the process of initiating translation into other official languages of the United Nations;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* for the current efforts being made by the office of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, for the revitalization of the Institute;

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[66] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Special Session, Supplement No. 3* (A-S/23/10/Rev.1), chap. III.

[67] A/39/511, annex.

[68] A/55/385.

4. *Expresses grave concern* over the following matters:

(a) Despite the revitalization and fund-raising efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General and the Institute, contributions have not reached the level required to enable the Institute to operate beyond 31 December 2000;

(b) The lack of resources to ensure the future of the only research and training institute for the advancement of women within the United Nations system;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly during its fifty-fifth session on additional possibilities to support the Institute in fulfilling its personnel and administrative needs in conformity with article VII of its Statute;

6. *Decides*, in view of the difficult financial situation of the Institute to provide it with financial assistance on a non-recurrent basis, in a manner to be determined, in order to enable it to continue its activities throughout 2001;

7. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that continue to contribute to and support the activities of the Institute;

8. *Urges* Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to contribute to or consider increasing their contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for the Institute to facilitate the ongoing programmes and activities of the Institute;

9. *Invites* the Institute to intensify its campaign to raise funds and attract support from, inter alia, private sector foundations and corporations for its activities;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution and to include in his reports on the activities of the Institute detailed information on the financial flows of the Trust Fund and the utilization of the Institute's resources, in keeping with similar reports on such institutes as the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

* * *

36. The Third Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Note by the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women

The General Assembly takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women.[69]

[69] See A/55/271.

United Nations A/55/595/Corr.1

General Assembly

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Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 107

Advancement of women

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Anzhela **Korneliouk** (Belarus)

Corrigendum

1. **Section II.A**

   Replace paragraph 9 and subparagraphs 9 (a)-(e) with the following:

   9. At the 46th meeting, on 3 November, the representative of the Netherlands orally revised the first preambular paragraph by deleting the word "later" before the words "human rights instruments".

2. **Section III, paragraph 35, draft resolution I, first preambular paragraph**

   Delete later *before* human rights instruments

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United Nations A/55/596

General Assembly

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Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 108

Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Anzhela **Korneliouk** (Belarus)

I. Introduction

1. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 11 September 2000, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the special session of the General Assembly entitled, 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century'" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item jointly with item 107 at its 13th to 17th meetings, on 6, 9 and 10 October 2000, and took action on the item at its 37th meeting, on 26 October. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/55/SR.13-17 and 37).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" (A/55/341);

(b) Letter dated 3 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/55/4).

4. At the 13th meeting, on 6 October, a statement was made by the Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (see A/C.3/55/SR.13).

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5. At the same meeting, introductory statements were made by the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Deputy Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) (see A/C.3/55/SR.13).

6. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (see A/C.3/55/SR.13).

7. Also at the 13th meeting, the Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Director of INSTRAW and the Deputy Director of UNIFEM responded to questions raised by the representative of Cuba (see A/C.3/55/SR.13).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.28

8. At the 37th meeting, on 26 October, the representative of New Zealand, on behalf of the Chairperson, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly" (A/C.3/55/L.28), which was submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.28 without a vote (see para. 10).

III. Recommendation of the Third Committee

10. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly*

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/203 of 22 December 1995, 51/69 of 12 December 1996, 52/100 of 12 December 1997, 53/120 of 9 December 1998 and 54/141 of 17 December 1999,

Welcoming the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the

* The outcome of the twenty-third special session, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", is contained in chapter III of document A/S-23/10/Rev.1 and comprises the "Political declaration" and "Further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action".

twenty-first century", namely the "Political declaration" and "Further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action",[1]

Stressing the importance of the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, which has assessed the implementation of the Beijing Declaration[2] and Platform for Action,[3] identified obstacles and challenges thereto and proposed actions and initiatives to overcome them and achieve its full and accelerated implementation,

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly are important contributions to the advancement of women worldwide in the achievement of gender equality and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned, as well as by non-governmental organizations,

Stressing the importance of strong, sustained political will and commitment at the national, regional and international levels in order to achieve full and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

Recognizing that the responsibility for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly rests primarily at the national level and that strengthened efforts are necessary in this respect, and reiterating that enhanced international cooperation is essential for the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

1. *Reaffirms* the commitments contained in the "Political declaration" and "Further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action",[1] adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[4] and on the implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";[5]

3. *Calls upon* Governments, the relevant entities of the United Nations system within their respective mandates and all other relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to take effective action to achieve full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and

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[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Special Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/S-23/10/Rev.1), chap. III.

[2] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] A/55/293.

[5] A/55/341.

the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, as elaborated in the above-mentioned documents;

4. *Also calls upon* Governments, in collaboration with relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to facilitate the translation and dissemination of the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, as broadly and as accessibly as possible;

5. *Strongly encourages* Governments to continue to support the role and contribution of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

6. *Further reaffirms* its decision that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with their respective mandates and with General Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and other relevant resolutions, constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that plays the primary role in the overall policy-making and follow-up and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

7. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to continue to promote a coordinated and integrated follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits and their reviews, and requests the Economic and Social Council to further intensify its efforts to ensure that gender mainstreaming is an integral part of all its activities concerning integrated and coordinated follow-up to United Nations conferences, building upon agreed conclusions 1997/2 of the Council;[6]

8. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to continue to further policy coordination and inter-agency cooperation towards the achievement of the objectives of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including by considering the dedication of specific segments to the advancement of women and implementation of the above-mentioned documents and by mainstreaming a gender perspective in all its work;

9. *Encourages* the Economic and Social Council to request the regional commissions, within their respective mandates and resources, to build up a database to be updated regularly, in which all programmes and projects carried out in their respective regions by agencies or organizations of the United Nations system are listed, and to facilitate their dissemination, as well as the evaluation of their impact on the empowerment of women through the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;

10. *Reaffirms* that the Commission on the Status of Women has a central role assisting the Economic and Social Council in monitoring, assessing progress made and accelerating, within the United Nations system, the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and in advising the Council thereon;

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[6] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/53/3), chap. IV, para. 4.

11. *Notes* that at its forty-fifth session, in 2001, the Commission on the Status of Women will develop a new multi-year programme of work, and in this respect requests the Secretary-General to report to the Commission with recommendations for the effective implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including through enhancing the effectiveness of its work and its catalytic role in mainstreaming a gender perspective in United Nations activities;

12. *Recognizes* the importance attached to the regional and subregional monitoring of the global and regional platforms for action and of the implementation of the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly by regional commissions and other subregional or regional structures, within their mandates, in consultation with Governments, and calls for the promotion of further cooperation in that respect among Governments and, where appropriate, national machineries of the same region;

13. *Reaffirms* that, in order to implement the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels, as well as new and additional resources for the developing countries, in particular those in Africa and the least developed countries, from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources, will also be required;

14. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly in the countries with economies in transition requires continued national efforts and international cooperation and assistance;

15. *Reaffirms* that in order to implement the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly a reformulation of policies and reallocation of resources may be needed, but that some policy changes may not necessarily have financial implications;

16. *Reaffirms* that in order to ensure the effective implementation of the strategic objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, the United Nations system should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective, including through the work of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and through the maintenance of gender units and focal points;

17. *Reaffirming also* that United Nations bodies that focus on gender issues, such as the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, have an important role to play in the implementation of the objectives of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly on the full range of tasks of the Division for the Advancement of Women, including those that might arise from the implementation of the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and from the entry into force

of the Optional Protocol[7] to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[8] with a view to ensuring that the Division can effectively fulfil its tasks;

19. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all United Nations personnel and officials at Headquarters and in the field, especially in field operations, receive training so that they mainstream a gender perspective in their work, including gender impact analysis, and to ensure appropriate follow-up to such training;

20. *Requests* all bodies that deal with programme and budgetary matters, including the Committee for Programme and Coordination, to ensure that all programmes, medium-term plans and programme budgets visibly mainstream a gender perspective;

21. *Invites* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to include information on measures taken to implement the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, as well as the Platform for Action, in their reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women under article 18 of the Convention;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to disseminate the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly as widely as possible in all official languages of the United Nations;

23. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report annually to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women on follow-up to and progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

24. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session an item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century'".

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[7] Resolution 54/4, annex.

[8] Resolution 34/180, annex.

United Nations A/55/597

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Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Anzhela **Korneliouk** (Belarus)

I. Introduction

1. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 11 September 2000, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 47th to 53rd, 55th and 56th meetings, from 6 to 10 November 2000. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/55/SR.47-53, 55 and 56).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees[1] and the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[2]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa (A/55/471);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States (A/55/472);

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/55/12).
[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 12A* (A/55/12/Add.1).

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(d) Report of the Secretary-General on a new international humanitarian order (A/55/545);

(e) Letter dated 4 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the report of the Subregional Conference on the Question of Refugees and Displaced Persons in Central Africa, held at Bujumbura from 14 to 16 August 2000 (A/55/506-S/2000/1006).

4. At the 47th meeting, on 6 November, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees made an introductory statement (see A/C.3/55/SR.47).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee engaged in a dialogue with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in which the representatives of the Russian Federation, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Guinea, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Angola, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Burundi, the Sudan, Morocco, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Rwanda, Mexico, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Congo and Croatia took part (see A/C.3/55/SR.47).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.21

6. At the 50th meeting, on 7 November, the representative of Mexico introduced a draft resolution entitled "Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (A/C.3/55/L.21).

7. At its 52nd meeting, on 8 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.21 without a vote (see para. 25, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.66

8. At the 53rd meeting, on 9 November, the representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina, on behalf of Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Jordan, Kuwait and Panama, subsequently joined by Bangladesh and Thailand, introduced a draft resolution entitled "New international humanitarian order" (A/C.3/55/L.66), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Recalling* its resolution 53/124 of 9 December 1998 and other pertinent resolutions relating to the promotion of the new international humanitarian order and international cooperation in the humanitarian field,
>
> "*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the new international humanitarian order and his previous reports containing comments and views of Governments as well as of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,
>
> "*Bearing in mind* the reports of the Secretary-General as well as other pertinent reports made in the context of the Millennium Summit,

"*Noting with deep concern* the continuing trend of systematic violations of humanitarian and human rights law, which lead ultimately and inevitably to emergency situations,

"*Noting with appreciation* the emphasis placed by the Secretary-General on promoting compliance in the field of international humanitarian and human rights law and the arrangements being made by him to ensure an active follow-up to his views and suggestions in this regard,

"*Recognizing* that the ultimate aim of all humanitarian assistance should be to save human lives and facilitate the transition to rehabilitation and reconstruction in order to enable recipients to achieve self-sufficiency as soon as possible and that, to this end, a series of measures need to be taken, including, in particular, local capacity-building, good governance and conduct of States as well as non-State actors in accordance with universally accepted humanitarian norms and principles,

"*Recognizing*, in addition, the urgent need to further strengthen international cooperation and solidarity in the humanitarian field,

"1. *Expresses* its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his continuing support for efforts to promote a new international humanitarian order;

"2. *Invites* the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures to promote compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law, norms and principles in situations of armed conflict and complex emergencies;

"3. *Urges* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as well as non-state actors to extend cooperation and provide support to the efforts of the Secretary-General in this regard;

"4. *Invites* Governments to make available to the Secretary-General, on a voluntary basis, information and expertise on humanitarian problems of concern to them, in order to identify opportunities for future action, to ensure preparedness for an effective and speedy response to humanitarian challenges and, when necessary, to establish expert groups at the regional or international level in order to analyse these problems and make recommendations for action;

"5. *Invites* the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues to continue and further strengthen its activities, including cooperation with the United Nations system;

"6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to remain in contact with Governments, and relevant international and non-governmental organizations concerned and to report to it at its fifty-seventh session on the progress made concerning promotion of a new humanitarian order and compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law in armed conflicts and emergency situations."

9. At the 55th meeting, on 10 November, the representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) A new preambular paragraph was inserted after the second preambular paragraph, reading:

"*Recalling* its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the annex thereto pertaining to humanitarian assistance";

(b) In operative paragraph 2, the words "internationally accepted" were inserted before the word "norms".

10. At the 56th meeting, on 10 November, the representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina further orally revised the draft resolution.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.66, as further orally revised, without a vote (see para. 25, draft resolution II).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.67

12. At the 53rd meeting, on 9 November, the representative of Norway, on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, the Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Zambia and Zimbabwe, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (A/C.3/55/L.67). Subsequently, Afghanistan, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Guinea, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Morocco, Namibia, Papua New Guinea, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Togo and Vanuatu joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, and the Philippines withdrew as a sponsor of the draft resolution.

13. At its 55th meeting, on 10 November, at the request of the representative of Egypt, the Committee held a separate vote on operative paragraph 20 of the draft resolution. The paragraph was adopted by a recorded vote of 118 to none, with 30 abstentions. The voting was as follows:[3]

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France,

[3] The delegations of Ghana and Burundi subsequently indicated that, had they been present, they would have voted in favour.

Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Abstaining:

Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Cambodia, Comoros, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam.

14. After the adoption of operative paragraph 20 of the draft resolution, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of Pakistan, India, the Sudan, the United States of America and Algeria; subsequently, statements were made by the representatives of France (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Canada and Norway (see A/C.3/55/SR.55).

15. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.67, as a whole, without a vote (see para. 25, draft resolution III).

16. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Singapore, India and the Dominican Republic (see A/C.3/55/SR.55).

D. Draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.68

17. At the 53rd meeting, on 9 November, the representative of South Africa, on behalf of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, the Gambia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, the Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Zambia, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly for the announcement of voluntary contributions to the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (A/C.3/55/L.68). Subsequently, Albania, Botswana, Chad, Chile, Cyprus and Indonesia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

18. At its 55th meeting, on 10 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.68 without a vote (see para. 25, draft resolution IV).

E. Draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.69

19. At the 53rd meeting, on 9 November, the representative of South Africa, on behalf of Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, the Gambia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mauritania, Monaco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, the Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Venezuela, Zambia and Zimbabwe, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Fiftieth anniversary of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and World Refugee Day" (A/C.3/55/L.69). Subsequently, Albania, Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Colombia, the Comoros, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Ethiopia, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Liechtenstein, Malawi, Malta, Morocco, Nicaragua, Nepal, the Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and Tunisia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

20. At its 55th meeting, on 10 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.69 without a vote (see para. 25, draft resolution V).

F. Draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.70

21. At the 53rd meeting, on 9 November, the representative of Mauritania, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States and Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Colombia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Mauritania, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa" (A/C.3/55/L.70). Subsequently, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Denmark, France, Haiti, Honduras, Ireland and Venezuela joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

22. At the 56th meeting, on 10 November, the representative of Mauritania orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 19, the words "urges States and all other actors" were replaced by the words "urges States, parties to conflict and all other relevant actors"; the words "calls upon States" were inserted before the words "to investigate fully"; and the words "requests organizations and aid workers" were replaced by the words "calls upon organizations and aid workers";

(b) A new operative paragraph 33 was inserted, reading:

"33. *Invites* the Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons to continue his ongoing dialogue with Member States and

intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in accordance with his mandate, and to include information thereon in his reports to the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly",

and the subsequent paragraphs were renumbered accordingly.

23. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.70, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 25, draft resolution VI).

G. Draft decision proposed by the Chairperson

24. At its 56th meeting, on 10 November, on the proposal of the Chairperson, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (A/55/12) and the report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States (A/55/ 472) (see para. 26).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

25. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council decision 2000/302 of 28 July 2000 concerning the enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Taking note also of the request regarding the enlargement of the Executive Committee contained in the letter dated 11 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General,[4]

1. *Decides* to increase the number of members of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from fifty-seven to fifty-eight States;

2. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to elect the additional member at its resumed organizational session for 2001.

[4] E/2000/92.

Draft resolution II
New international humanitarian order

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/124 of 9 December 1998 and other pertinent resolutions[5] relating to the promotion of the new international humanitarian order and international cooperation in the humanitarian field,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the new international humanitarian order[6] and his previous reports[7] containing comments and views of Governments as well as of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

Recalling its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the annex thereto pertaining to humanitarian assistance,

Bearing in mind the reports of the Secretary-General[8] submitted in the context of the Millennium Summit,

Noting the importance of adherence to internationally accepted norms and principles as well as the need to promote, as required, national and international legislation to meet actual and potential humanitarian challenges,

Noting with deep concern the continuing trend of systematic violations of refugee law, international humanitarian law and human rights instruments, which can lead ultimately to emergency situations,

Noting with appreciation the increased attention of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee to addressing the security needs of personnel responding to these emergencies,

Noting with appreciation the emphasis placed by the Secretary-General on promoting strict adherence to refugee law, international humanitarian law and human rights instruments,

Recognizing that the ultimate aim of all humanitarian assistance should be to save human lives and facilitate the transition at the appropriate time to rehabilitation and reconstruction and to facilitate local capacity-building and institution-building, as necessary, in the affected countries and regions,

Recognizing, in addition, the urgent need to further strengthen international cooperation and coordination in the humanitarian field,

1. *Takes note* of the Secretary-General's continuing support of efforts to promote a new international humanitarian order;

2. *Invites* the Secretary-General to continue to promote strict adherence to refugee law, international humanitarian law, human rights instruments and internationally accepted norms and principles in situations of armed conflict and complex emergencies;

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[5] Resolutions 36/136, 37/201, 38/125, 40/126, 42/120, 42/121, 43/129, 43/131, 45/100, 45/102, 47/106, 49/170 and 51/174.

[6] A/55/545.

[7] A/37/145, A/38/450, A/40/358 and Add.1 and 2, A/41/472, A/43/734 and Add.1, A/45/524, A/47/352, A/49/577 and Corr.1, A/51/454 and A/53/486.

[8] A/54/619 and A/54/2000.

3. *Urges* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and others concerned to extend cooperation and provide support to the efforts of the Secretary-General, inter alia, through the relevant United Nations agencies and organizational mechanisms set up to address the assistance and protection needs of victims of complex emergencies as well as the safety and security of United Nations and other humanitarian workers;

4. *Calls upon* all Governments and parties involved in complex humanitarian emergencies to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel so as to allow them to perform efficiently their task of assisting the affected civilian populations;

5. *Invites* Governments to make available to the Secretary-General, on a voluntary basis, information and expertise on humanitarian problems of concern to them, in order to identify opportunities for future action;

6. *Invites* the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues to continue and further strengthen its activities, including cooperation with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and the other relevant bodies of the United Nations system;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to remain in contact with Governments and the relevant international and non-governmental organizations concerned and to report to it at its fifty-seventh session on the progress made concerning the promotion of a new humanitarian order and compliance with refugee law, international humanitarian law and human rights instruments in armed conflicts and emergency situations.

Draft resolution III
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of her Office[9] and the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its fifty-first session[10] and the conclusions and decisions contained therein,

Recalling its resolution 54/146 of 17 December 1999,

Commending the High Commissioner, her staff and their implementing partners for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities, paying tribute to those staff members whose lives have been endangered in the course of their duties, and strongly condemning the deaths and injuries and other forms of physical and psychological violence experienced by staff members as a consequence of generalized as well as targeted violence,

Expressing appreciation this year, marking the fiftieth anniversary of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner, for the work accomplished since its establishment in responding to the protection and assistance needs of refugees

[9] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/55/12).
[10] Ibid., *Supplement No. 12A* (A/55/12/Add.1).

and in promoting durable solutions to their plight, and commending States for their cooperation and support,

1. *Endorses* the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its fifty-first session;[10]

2. *Strongly reaffirms* the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees of providing international protection to refugees and seeking permanent solutions to the problem of refugees, and reiterates the need for Governments to continue to facilitate the effective exercise of this function;

3. *Expresses sincere appreciation and gratitude* to Sadako Ogata for her unrelenting efforts throughout her tenure as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to promote innovative humanitarian solutions to the refugee problem in various parts of the world, and for her inspiring example in performing her functions in an effective and dedicated manner;

4. *Reaffirms* that the 1951 Convention[11] and the 1967 Protocol[12] relating to the Status of Refugees remain the foundation of the international refugee regime and recognizes the importance of their full application by States parties, notes with satisfaction that one hundred and forty States are now parties to one instrument or to both, welcomes the fact that an intergovernmental event involving those States is planned on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Convention, and encourages the Office of the High Commissioner and States to strengthen their efforts to promote broader accession to those instruments and their full implementation;

5. *Notes* that fifty-two States are now parties to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons[13] and that twenty-three States are parties to the 1961 Convention on the reduction of statelessness,[14] and encourages the High Commissioner to continue her activities on behalf of stateless persons;

6. *Reaffirms* that, as set out in article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[15] everyone has the right to seek and enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution, and calls upon all States to refrain from taking measures that jeopardize the institution of asylum, in particular by returning or expelling refugees or asylum-seekers contrary to international standards;

7. *Emphasizes* that the protection of refugees is primarily the responsibility of States, whose full and effective cooperation, action and political resolve are required to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to fulfil its mandated functions, welcomes the proposal of the Office of the High Commissioner to commence a process of global consultations on international protection, and requests a report thereon;

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[11] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.
[12] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.
[13] Ibid., *Treaty Series*, vol. 360, No. 5158.
[14] Ibid., vol. 989, No. 14458.
[15] Resolution 217 A (III).

8. *Welcomes* measures taken by the Office of the High Commissioner to make protection effective, recognizing that international protection is a dynamic and action-oriented function, carried out in cooperation with States and other partners, inter alia, to promote and facilitate the admission, reception and treatment of refugees and to ensure protection-oriented solutions;

9. *Stresses* the importance of international solidarity, burden-sharing and international cooperation to share responsibilities and partnerships in reinforcing the international protection of refugees, urges all States and relevant non-governmental and other organizations, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner, to cooperate and to mobilize resources with a view to reducing the heavy burden borne by States, in particular developing countries, that have received large numbers of asylum-seekers and refugees, and calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to play its catalytic role in mobilizing assistance from the international community to address the economic, environmental and social impact of large-scale refugee populations, especially in developing countries;

10. *Condemns* all acts that pose a threat to the personal security and well-being of refugees and asylum-seekers, such as refoulement, unlawful expulsion and physical attacks, and calls upon all States of refuge, in cooperation with international organizations where appropriate, to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection, including the humane treatment of asylum-seekers;

11. *Urges* States to uphold the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements, inter alia, through effective measures to prevent the infiltration of armed elements, to identify and separate any such armed elements from refugee populations, to settle refugees in secure locations and to afford the Office of the High Commissioner and other appropriate humanitarian organizations prompt, unhindered and safe access to asylum-seekers, refugees and other persons of concern;

12. *Calls upon* States and all concerned parties to take urgently all possible measures to safeguard the physical security and property of the staff of the Office of the High Commissioner and other humanitarian personnel, to investigate fully any crime committed against them and to bring to justice persons responsible for such crimes;

13. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner, in cooperation with host countries and in coordination with other relevant United Nations bodies, to further develop and integrate appropriate security arrangements in its operations, and to allocate adequate resources for the safety and security of its staff and the persons under its mandate;

14. *Notes* that the 1994 Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel[16] is now in force, calls upon those States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying the Convention, but notes in this regard that the Convention does not automatically apply to most humanitarian personnel, and therefore invites States to provide a timely response to the recommendation of the Secretary-General[17] to extend the scope of legal protection to all United Nations

[16] Resolution 49/59, annex.

[17] See A/54/619, para. 43; A/54/154/Add.1-E/1999/94/Add.1, para. 13.

and associated personnel through the development of a protocol to the 1994 Convention or by other appropriate means;

15. *Urges* all States and relevant organizations to support the High Commissioner's search for durable solutions to refugee problems, including voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement in a third country, as appropriate, reaffirms that voluntary repatriation is the preferred solution to refugee problems, and calls upon countries of origin, countries of asylum, the Office of the High Commissioner and the international community to act in a spirit of burden-sharing and partnership to enable refugees to exercise their right to return home in safety and with dignity;

16. *Calls upon* all States to promote conditions conducive to the voluntary repatriation of refugees in safety and with dignity, including conditions furthering reconciliation and long-term development in countries of return, and to support the sustainable reintegration of returnees by providing countries of origin with necessary rehabilitation and development assistance in conjunction, as appropriate, with the Office of the High Commissioner, relevant mechanisms including those within the United Nations system, and development agencies;

17. *Reiterates* the right of all persons to return to their country of origin, emphasizes in this regard the obligation of all States to accept the return of their nationals, calls upon all States to facilitate the return of their nationals who have sought asylum and have been determined not to be in need of international protection, and affirms the need for the return of persons to be undertaken in a humane manner and with full respect for their human rights and dignity, irrespective of the status of the persons concerned;

18. *Acknowledges* the desirability of comprehensive approaches by the international community, notably at the regional level, to the problems of refugees and displaced persons, and notes in this regard that capacity-building in countries of origin and countries of asylum can play an important role in addressing the root causes of refugee flows, strengthening emergency preparedness and response, promoting and building peace, and developing regional standards for the protection of refugees;

19. *Urges* States, in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant organizations, to explore and support fully capacity-building initiatives as part of a comprehensive approach to addressing refugee issues and to take necessary measures to promote sustainable development and to ensure the success of capacity-building activities, and reiterates that such initiatives may include those which strengthen legal and judicial institutions and civil society, those which promote services for refugees, the observance of human rights, the rule of law and accountability and those which enhance the capacity of States to fulfil their responsibilities with respect to persons under the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner;

20. *Reiterates its support* for the role of the Office of the High Commissioner in providing humanitarian assistance and protection to internally displaced persons on the basis of criteria enumerated in paragraph 16 of its resolution 53/125 of 9

December 1998, and underlines the continuing relevance of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement;[18]

21. *Calls upon* States to adopt an approach that is sensitive to gender-related concerns and to ensure that women whose claims to refugee status are based upon a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons enumerated in the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol, including persecution through sexual violence or other gender-related persecution, are recognized as refugees, and encourages the Office of the High Commissioner to continue and to strengthen its efforts for the protection of refugee women;

22. *Urges* States and relevant parties to respect and observe principles of international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law that are of particular relevance to safeguarding the rights of the child and adolescent refugees whose situation is particularly vulnerable to abuse, welcomes in this regard the adoption of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict[19] and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,[20] and calls upon States to consider signing and ratifying them as a matter of priority;

23. *Underlines* the particular role of elderly refugees within the refugee family, welcomes the development by the Office of the High Commissioner of guidelines to address their special needs, and calls upon States and the Office of the High Commissioner to make renewed efforts to ensure that the rights, needs and dignity of elderly and disabled refugees are fully respected and that programmes are designed bearing in mind their special vulnerabilities;

24. *Recalls* that the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and that it is entitled to protection by society and the State, and calls upon States, working in close collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner and other concerned organizations, to take measures to ensure that the refugee's family is protected, including through measures aimed at reuniting family members separated as a result of refugee flight;

25. *Calls upon* Governments and other donors to demonstrate their international solidarity and burden-sharing with countries of asylum, in particular developing countries, countries with economies in transition and countries with limited resources that, owing to their location, host large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers, and urges Governments to respond promptly and adequately to the global appeal issued by the Office of the High Commissioner, presenting requirements under its annual programme budget, to support efforts to widen the donor base so as to achieve greater burden-sharing among donors and to assist the High Commissioner in securing additional and timely income from traditional governmental sources, other Governments and the private sector so as to ensure that the needs of persons under the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner are fully met.

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[18] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

[19] Resolution 54/263, annex I.

[20] Ibid., annex II.

Draft resolution IV
Ad hoc Committee of the General Assembly for the announcement of voluntary contributions to the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 1556 A (XV) of 18 December 1960 and 1729 (XVI) of 20 December 1961 on the convening of an ad hoc Committee of the Whole, under the chairmanship of the President of the General Assembly, as soon as practicable after the opening of each regular session of the Assembly, for the purpose of announcing pledges of voluntary contributions to the refugee programmes for the following year,

Recalling also that the ad hoc Committee of the General Assembly for the announcement of voluntary contributions to the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has been convened annually, under the chairmanship of the President of the General Assembly or his/her designate, at United Nations Headquarters, immediately following the debate on the report of the High Commissioner in the Third Committee,

Noting that the General Assembly, in its resolution 54/146 of 17 December 1999, endorsed the presentation of a unified annual programme budget of the Office of the High Commissioner,

Noting also that financial requirements under the annual programme budget for the programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner are presented in the global appeal issued late in November or early in December each year at Geneva, forming the basis for pledges in response to the information provided in the global appeal,

Decides, in order to improve and rationalize the funding mechanism following the adoption of the annual programme budget, that the ad hoc Committee of the General Assembly may be convened as from 2001 at Geneva, the headquarters of the Office of the High Commissioner.

Draft resolution V
Fiftieth anniversary of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and World Refugee Day

The General Assembly

1. *Commends* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for its leadership and coordination of international action for refugees, and acknowledges the tireless efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner to provide international protection and assistance to refugees and other persons of concern and to promote durable solutions for their problems during the past fifty years;

2. *Pays tribute* to the dedication of United Nations humanitarian workers and associated personnel, the staff of the Office of the High Commissioner in the field, including local staff, who risk their lives in the performance of their duties;

3. *Reaffirms* its support for the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions, on behalf of returnees, stateless persons and internally displaced persons;

4. *Notes* the crucial role of partnerships with Governments and international, regional and non-governmental organizations, as well as of the participation of refugees in decisions that affect their lives;

5. *Recognizes* that, by virtue of its activities on behalf of refugees and other persons of concern, the Office of the High Commissioner also contributes to promoting the purposes and principles of the United Nations, in particular those related to peace, human rights and development;

6. *Notes* that 2001 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees,[21] which sets out the fundamental concepts for international refugee protection;

7. *Notes also* that the Organization of African Unity has agreed that an international refugee day may coincide with Africa Refugee Day on 20 June;

8. *Decides* that, as from 2001, 20 June will be celebrated as World Refugee Day.

Draft resolution VI
Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/147 of 17 December 1999,

Recalling also the provisions of its resolution 2312 (XXII) of 14 December 1967, by which it adopted the Declaration on Territorial Asylum,

Recalling further the Organization of African Unity Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa of 1969[22] and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,[23]

Recalling the Khartoum Declaration[24] and the Recommendations on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa[25] adopted by the Organization of African Unity at the ministerial meeting held at Khartoum on 13 and 14 December 1998,

Welcoming decision CM/Dec.531 (LXXII) on the situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its seventy-second ordinary session, held at Lomé from 6 to 8 July 2000,[26]

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[21] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.
[22] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. [illegible] No. 14691.
[23] Ibid., vol. 1520, No. 26363.
[24] A/54/682, annex I.
[25] Ibid., annex II.
[26] See A/55/286, annex.

Welcoming the convening by the Organization of African Unity and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees of the Special Meeting of Governmental and Non-Governmental Technical Experts at Conakry from 27 to 29 March 2000, on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Organization of African Unity Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa, commending the comprehensive implementation plan adopted by the Special Meeting, and noting its endorsement by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its seventy-second ordinary session,

Commending the First Ministerial Conference on Human Rights in Africa of the Organization of African Unity, held at Grand-Baie, Mauritius, from 12 to 16 April 1999, and recalling the attention paid to issues relevant to refugees and displaced persons in the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the Conference,

Recalling the sixth annual Seminar on International Humanitarian Law, convened by the Organization of African Unity and the International Committee of the Red Cross at Addis Ababa on 15 and 16 May 2000, and noting the endorsement of the recommendations of the Seminar by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its seventy-second ordinary session,

Recognizing the contributions made by African States to the development of regional standards for the protection of refugees and returnees, and noting with appreciation that countries of asylum are hosting refugees in a humanitarian spirit and in a spirit of African solidarity and brotherhood,

Recognizing also the need for States to address resolutely the root causes of forced displacement and to create conditions that facilitate durable solutions for refugees and displaced persons, and stressing in this regard the need for States to foster peace, stability and prosperity throughout the African continent,

Convinced of the need to strengthen the capacity of States to provide assistance and protection for refugees, returnees and displaced persons and of the need for the international community, within the context of burden-sharing, to increase its material, financial and technical assistance to the countries affected by refugees, returnees and displaced persons,

Acknowledging with appreciation that some assistance is already rendered by the international community to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and host countries in Africa,

Noting with great concern that, despite all the efforts deployed so far by the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and others, the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Africa, especially in the West African and Great Lakes regions and in the Horn of Africa, remains precarious,

Stressing that the provision of relief and assistance to African refugees by the international community should be on an equitable, non-discriminatory basis,

Considering that, among refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons, women and children are the majority of the population affected by conflict and bear the brunt of atrocities and other consequences of conflict,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General[27] and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[28]

2. *Notes with concern* that the declining socio-economic situation, compounded by political instability, internal strife, human rights violations and natural disasters, has led to increased numbers of refugees and displaced persons in some countries of Africa, and remains particularly concerned about the impact of large-scale refugee populations on the security, socio-economic situation and environment of countries of asylum;

3. *Recalls* the commemoration in 1999 of the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Organization of African Unity Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa of 1969[22] and commends the convening by the Organization of African Unity and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees of the Special Meeting of Governmental and Non-Governmental Technical Experts at Conakry from 27 to 29 March 2000 to mark that anniversary;

4. *Encourages* African States to ensure the full implementation and follow-up of the comprehensive implementation plan adopted by the Special Meeting and endorsed by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity;

5. *Also encourages* African States to ensure the full implementation and follow-up of the recommendations of the sixth Seminar on International Humanitarian Law, convened by the Organization of African Unity and the International Committee of the Red Cross at Addis Ababa on 15 and 16 May 2000;

6. *Calls upon* States and other parties to armed conflict to observe scrupulously the letter and the spirit of international humanitarian law, bearing in mind that armed conflict is one of the principal causes of forced displacement in Africa;

7. *Expresses its sincere appreciation and gratitude* to Sadako Ogata for her tireless efforts, throughout her tenure as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to address the plight of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa and for her inspiring example in performing her functions in an exemplary and dedicated manner;

8. *Also expresses its gratitude and appreciation*, in this year marking the fiftieth anniversary of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, for the work accomplished since its establishment, with the support of the international community, in assisting African countries of asylum and responding to the needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa for assistance and protection;

9. *Notes* the intergovernmental event planned in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, in 2001, and encourages African States parties to the Convention to actively participate in the event;

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[27] A/55/471.

[28] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/55/12).

10. *Reaffirms* that the 1951 Convention[29] and the 1967 Protocol[30] relating to the Status of Refugees, as complemented by the Organization of African Unity Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa of 1969, remain the foundation of the international refugee protection regime in Africa, encourages African States that have not yet done so to accede to those instruments, and calls upon States parties to the Conventions to reaffirm their commitment to their ideals and to respect and observe their provisions;

11. *Notes* the need for States to address the root causes of forced displacement in Africa, and calls upon African States, the international community and relevant United Nations organizations to take concrete action to meet the needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons for protection and assistance and to contribute generously to national projects and programmes aimed at alleviating their plight;

12. *Notes also* the link, inter alia, between human rights violations, poverty, natural disasters and environmental degradation and population displacement, and calls for redoubled and concerted efforts by States, in collaboration with the Organization of African Unity, to promote and protect human rights for all and to address these problems;

13. *Encourages* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue to cooperate with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, within their respective mandates, in the promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa;

14. *Notes with appreciation* the ongoing mediation and conflict resolution efforts carried out by African States, the Organization of African Unity and subregional organizations, as well as the establishment of regional mechanisms for conflict prevention and resolution, and urges all relevant parties to address the humanitarian consequences of conflicts;

15. *Expresses its appreciation and strong support* for those African Governments and local populations that, in spite of the general deterioration of socio-economic and environmental conditions and over-stretched national resources, continue to accept the additional burden imposed upon them by increasing numbers of refugees and displaced persons, in compliance with the relevant principles of asylum;

16. *Expresses its concern* about instances in which the fundamental principle of asylum is jeopardized by unlawful expulsion or refoulement or by threats to the life, physical security, integrity, dignity and well-being of refugees;

17. *Calls upon* States, in cooperation with international organizations, within their mandates, to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection and, in particular, to ensure that the civilian and humanitarian nature of refugee camps is not compromised by the presence or the activities of armed elements;

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[29] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[30] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

18. *Notes* the proposal of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to commence a process of global consultations on the international refugee protection regime and, in this context, invites African States to participate actively in this process so as to bring their regional perspective to bear, thus ensuring that adequate attention is paid to concerns that are specific to Africa;

19. *Deplores* the deaths and injuries and other forms of violence sustained by staff members of the Office of the High Commissioner and urges States, parties to conflict and all other relevant actors to take all necessary measures to protect activities related to humanitarian assistance, to prevent attacks on and kidnapping of national and international humanitarian workers and to ensure their safety and security, calls upon States to investigate fully any crimes committed against humanitarian personnel and bring to justice persons responsible for such crimes, and calls upon organizations and aid workers to abide by the national laws and regulations of the countries in which they operate;

20. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the Organization of African Unity, subregional organizations and all African States, in conjunction with United Nations agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the international community, to strengthen and revitalize existing partnerships and forge new ones in support of the international refugee protection system;

21. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the international community and other concerned entities to intensify their support to African Governments through appropriate capacity-building activities, including training of relevant officers, disseminating information about refugee instruments and principles, providing financial, technical and advisory services to accelerate the enactment or amendment and implementation of legislation relating to refugees, strengthening emergency response and enhancing capacities for the coordination of humanitarian activities;

22. *Reaffirms* the right of return and also the principle of voluntary repatriation, appeals to countries of origin and countries of asylum to create conditions that are conducive to voluntary repatriation, and recognizes that, while voluntary repatriation remains the pre-eminent solution, local integration and third-country resettlement, as appropriate, are also viable options for dealing with the situation of African refugees who, owing to prevailing circumstances in their respective countries of origin, are unable to return home;

23. *Notes with satisfaction* the voluntary return of millions of refugees to their homelands following the successful repatriation and reintegration operations carried out by the Office of the High Commissioner, with the cooperation and collaboration of countries hosting refugees and countries of origin, and looks forward to other programmes to assist the voluntary repatriation and reintegration of all refugees in Africa;

24. *Reiterates* that the Plan of Action adopted by the Regional Conference on Assistance to Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in the Great Lakes Region, held at Bujumbura from 15 to 17 February 1995, as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/149 of 21 December 1995, continues to be a viable framework for the resolution of the refugee and humanitarian problems in that region;

25. *Appeals* to the international community to respond positively, in the spirit of solidarity and burden-sharing, to the third-country resettlement requests of African refugees, and notes with appreciation that some African countries have offered resettlement places for refugees;

26. *Welcomes* the programmes carried out by the Office of the High Commissioner with host Governments, the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and the international community to address the environmental impact of refugee populations;

27. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide material and financial assistance for the implementation of programmes intended for the rehabilitation of the environment and infrastructure affected by refugees in countries of asylum;

28. *Expresses its concern* about the long stay of refugees in certain African countries, and calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner to keep its programmes under review, in conformity with its mandate in the host countries, taking into account the increasing needs of refugees;

29. *Emphasizes* the need for the Office of the High Commissioner to collate statistics, on a regular basis, on the number of refugees living outside refugee camps in certain African countries, with a view to evaluating and addressing the needs of those refugees;

30. *Urges* the international community, in a spirit of international solidarity and burden-sharing, to continue to fund generously the refugee programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner and, taking into account the substantially increased needs of programmes in Africa, to ensure that Africa receives a fair and equitable share of the resources designated for refugees;

31. *Requests* all Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to pay particular attention to meeting the special needs of refugee women and children and displaced persons, including those with special protection needs;

32. *Calls upon* States and the Office of the High Commissioner to make renewed efforts to ensure that the rights, needs and dignity of elderly refugees are fully respected and addressed through appropriate programme activities;

33. *Invites* the Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons to continue his ongoing dialogue with Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in accordance with his mandate, and to include information thereon in his reports to the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly;

34. *Expresses grave concern* about the plight of internally displaced persons in Africa, calls upon States to take concrete action to pre-empt internal displacement and to meet the protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons, takes note in this regard of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,[31] and urges the international community, led by relevant United Nations organizations, to contribute generously to national projects and programmes aimed at alleviating the plight of internally displaced persons;

[31] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

35. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, taking fully into account the efforts expended by countries of asylum, under the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions", and to present an oral report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2001.

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36. The Third Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Documents relating to the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

The General Assembly takes note of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees[32] and the report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States.[33]

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[32] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/55/12).

[33] A/55/472.

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Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Anzhela **Korneliouk** (Belarus)

I. Introduction

1. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 11 September 2000, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of children" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 18th to 23rd, 30th, 37th, 43rd and 53rd meetings, on 11 to 13, 20 and 26 October and 1 and 9 November 2000. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/55/SR.18-23, 30, 37, 43 and 53).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict (A/55/163-S/2000/712);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (A/55/201);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (A/55/297);

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the protection of children affected by armed conflict (A/55/442).

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 41* (A/55/41).

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(f) Letter dated 18 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the conclusions of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of Eight, meeting at Miyazaki, Japan, on 13 July 2000 (A/55/162-S/2000/7150);

(g) Letter dated 5 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the ministerial statement adopted at the twenty-fourth annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, held at United Nations Headquarters on 15 September 2000 (A/55/459);

(h) Letter dated 6 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Agenda for War-Affected Children adopted at the International Conference on War-Affected Children, held at Winnipeg, Canada, from 10 to 17 September 2000 (A/55/467-S/2000/973).

4. At the 18th meeting, on 11 October, introductory statements were made by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund and the Deputy Director of the New York Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of both the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (see A/C.3/55/SR.18).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee engaged in a dialogue with the above-mentioned speakers, in which the representatives of France (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Rwanda, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Cuba, Canada, the Sudan, India and Iraq took part (see A/C.3/55/SR.18).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.17

6. At the 30th meeting, on 20 October, the representative of Namibia, on behalf of Afghanistan, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, the Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malawi, Monaco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Senegal, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe, introduced a draft resolution entitled "The girl child" (A/C.3/55/L.17). Subsequently, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina

Faso, Cambodia, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Hungary, Israel, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Malta, the Niger, Panama, Poland, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Republic of Moldova, Suriname, Togo, Tunisia and Uzbekistan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

7. At its 37th meeting, on 26 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.17 without a vote (see para. 14, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.18/Rev.1 and Rev.2

8. At the 43rd meeting, on 1 November, the representative of Uruguay, on behalf of Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, the Gambia, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, the Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe, introduced a draft resolution entitled "The rights of the child" (A/C.3/55/L.18/Rev.1), which, owing to a technical error, was reissued as document A/C.3/55/L.18/Rev.2. Subsequently, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Eritrea, Fiji, Georgia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Nauru, Nepal, the Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Togo, Turkey, Uganda and Vanuatu joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

9. At the same meeting, the representative of Uruguay corrected the text by replacing the words "*Calls upon*" by the word "*Urges*" in section V, operative paragraph 12.

10. Also at the same meeting, following a statement by the representative of Uruguay, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications (see A/C.3/55/SR.53). Subsequently, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement in connection with the draft resolution (see A/C.3/55/SR.53).

11. At its 53rd meeting, on 9 November, following a statement by the representative of the United States of America, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.18/Rev.2, as orally corrected, without a vote (see para. 14, draft resolution II).

12. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Singapore, Canada, Fiji, Cuba, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, India, Algeria, the Sudan, Australia and Pakistan (see A/C.3/55/SR.53).

C. Draft decision proposed by the Chairman

13. At its 53rd meeting, on 9 November, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (A/55/201) (see para. 15).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

14. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
The girl child

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/148 of 17 December 1999 and all previous relevant resolutions, including the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women, in particular those relevant to the girl child,

Recalling also all relevant United Nations conferences and the Declaration and Agenda for Action adopted by the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held at Stockholm from 27 to 31 August 1996,[2] as well as the final outcome documents of the recent five-year reviews of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[3] and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[4]

Deeply concerned about discrimination against the girl child and the violation of the rights of the girl child, which often result in less access for girls to education, nutrition, physical and mental health care and in girls enjoying fewer of the rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence than boys and often being subjected to various forms of cultural, social, sexual and economic exploitation and to violence and harmful practices, such as female infanticide, incest, early marriage, prenatal sex selection and female genital mutilation,

Recognizing the need to achieve gender equality so as to ensure a just and equitable world for girls,

Deeply concerned that, in situations of poverty, war and armed conflict, girl children are among the victims most affected and that thus their potential for full development is limited,

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[2] A/51/385, annex.

[3] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[4] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Concerned that the girl child has furthermore become a victim of sexually transmitted diseases and the human immunodeficiency virus, which affects the quality of her life and leaves her open to further discrimination,

Reaffirming the equal rights of women and men as enshrined, inter alia, in the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[5] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[6]

Reaffirming also the political declaration[7] and further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[8] adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",

Reaffirming further the Declaration of the World Education Forum, held at Dakar from 26 to 28 April 2000,

1. *Stresses* the need for full and urgent implementation of the rights of the girl child as guaranteed to her under all human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child[6] and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[5] as well as the need for universal ratification of those instruments;

2. *Urges* States to consider signing and ratifying the Optional Protocol[9] to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

3. *Welcomes* the adoption of the optional protocols[10] to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and invites States to consider signing and ratifying the optional protocols as a matter of priority with a view to their entry into force as soon as possible;

4. *Also welcomes* the girls' education initiative launched by the Secretary-General at the World Education Forum, held at Dakar from 26 to 28 April 2000;

5. *Urges* all Governments and the United Nations system to strengthen efforts bilaterally and with international organizations and private sector donors in order to achieve the goals of the World Education Forum, in particular that of eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005, and for the implementation of the girls' education initiative as a means of reaching this goal, and reaffirms the commitment contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[11]

6. *Calls upon* all States to take measures to address the obstacles that continue to affect the achievement of the goals set forth in the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women,[12] as contained in paragraph 33 of the

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[5] Resolution 34/180, annex.
[6] Resolution 44/25, annex.
[7] Resolution S-23/2, annex.
[8] Resolution S-23/3, annex.
[9] Resolution 54/4, annex.
[10] Resolution 54/263, annexes I and II.
[11] Resolution 55/2.
[12] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

further actions and initiatives to implement the Platform for Action,[8] where appropriate, including the strengthening of national mechanisms to implement policies and programmes for the girl child and, in some cases, to enhance the coordination among responsible institutions for the realization of the human rights of girls, as indicated in the further actions and initiatives;

7. *Urges* all States to take all necessary measures and to institute legal reforms to ensure the full and equal enjoyment by the girl child of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, to take effective action against violations of those rights and freedoms and to base programmes and policies for the girl child on the rights of the child;

8. *Urges* States to enact and enforce strictly laws to ensure that marriage is entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses, to enact and enforce strictly laws concerning the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age for marriage and to raise the minimum age for marriage where necessary;

9. *Urges* all States to fulfil their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as well as the commitment to implement the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women;

10. *Also urges* all States to enact and enforce legislation to protect girls from all forms of violence, including female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, female genital mutilation, rape, domestic violence, incest, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, child prostitution and child pornography, and to develop age-appropriate safe and confidential programmes and medical, social and psychological support services to assist girls who are subjected to violence;

11. *Calls upon* all States and international and non-governmental organizations, individually and collectively, to implement further the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, in particular the strategic objectives relating to the girl child and including the further actions and initiatives to implement the Platform for Action;

12. *Urges* States to take special measures for the protection of war-affected girls and in particular to protect them from sexually transmitted diseases such as human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome and gender-based violence, including rape and sexual abuse, torture, sexual exploitation, abduction and forced labour, paying special attention to refugee and displaced girls, and to take into account the special needs of the war-affected girl child in the delivery of humanitarian assistance and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes;

13. *Also urges* all States and the international community to respect, protect and promote the rights of the child, taking into account the particular vulnerabilities of the girl child in pre-conflict, conflict and post-conflict situations and calls for special initiatives designed to address all of the rights and needs of war-affected girls;

14. *Welcomes* the holding of the International Conference on War-Affected Children at Winnipeg, Canada, from 10 to 17 September 2000, and notes with appreciation the Winnipeg Agenda for War-Affected Children;[13]

15. *Urges* States to formulate comprehensive, multidisciplinary and coordinated national plans, programmes or strategies to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, which should be widely disseminated and should provide targets and timetables for implementation, as well as effective domestic enforcement procedures through the establishment of monitoring mechanisms involving all parties concerned, including consultations with women's organizations, giving attention to the recommendations relating to the girl child of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences;

16. *Calls upon* Governments, civil society, including the media, and non-governmental organizations to promote human rights education and the full respect for and enjoyment of the human rights of the girl child, inter alia, through the translation, production and dissemination of age-appropriate information material on those rights to all sectors of society, in particular to children;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to ensure that all organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, individually and collectively, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, take into account the rights and the particular needs of the girl child in the country programme of cooperation in accordance with the national priorities, including through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;[14]

18. *Requests* all human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and other human rights mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights to adopt regularly and systematically a gender perspective in the implementation of their mandates and to include in their reports information on the qualitative analysis of violations of the human rights of women and girls, and encourages the strengthening of cooperation and coordination in that regard;

19. *Calls upon* States and international and non-governmental organizations to mobilize all necessary resources, support and efforts to realize the goals, strategic objectives and actions set out in the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the further actions and initiatives to implement the Platform for Action;

20. *Stresses* the importance of a substantive assessment of the implementation of the Platform for Action with a life-cycle perspective so as to identify gaps and obstacles in the implementation process and to develop further actions for the achievement of the goals of the Platform for Action.

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[13] See A/55/467-S/2000/973.

[14] See A/53/226, paras. 72-77, and A/53/226/Add.1, paras. 88-98.

21. *Welcomes* the convening of the Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children at Yokohama, Japan, from 17 to 20 December 2001, and invites Member States and observers to participate in the Congress;

22. *Encourages* the regional commissions and other regional organizations to carry out activities in support of the preparations for the Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that a gender perspective and the needs and rights of the girl child are integrated into the preparatory work for the special session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the World Summit for Children in 2001, inter alia, by providing the General Assembly with a comprehensive report drawing on the experiences and outcomes of the five-year reviews of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the World Summit for Social Development, and the World Education Forum.

Draft resolution II
The rights of the child

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 54/148 and 54/149 of 17 December 1999, and taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2000/85 of 27 April 2000,[15]

Bearing in mind the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[16] emphasizing that the provisions of the Convention and other relevant human rights instruments must constitute the standard in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, and reaffirming that the best interest of the child shall be the primary consideration in all actions concerning children,

Reaffirming the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s[17] adopted by the World Summit for Children, held in New York on 29 and 30 September 1990, and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action[18] adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, which, inter alia, states that national and international mechanisms and programmes for the defence and protection of children, in particular those in especially difficult circumstances, should be strengthened, including through effective measures to combat exploitation and abuse of children, such as female infanticide, harmful child labour, sale of children and organs, child prostitution and child pornography, and which reaffirms that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are universal,

Recalling its resolution 54/93 of 7 December 1999, by which it decided to convene a special session in September 2001 to follow-up the World Summit for

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[15] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 3* (E/2000/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[16] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[17] A/45/625, annex.

[18] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

Children, and stressing the importance of addressing the rights and needs of the child in the preparatory process of the special session and the special session itself,

Profoundly concerned that the situation of girls and boys in many parts of the world remains critical as a result of the persistence of poverty, social inequality, inadequate social and economic conditions in an increasingly globalized world economy, pandemics, in particular human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, natural disasters, armed conflict, displacement, exploitation, illiteracy, hunger, intolerance, discrimination and inadequate legal protection, and convinced that urgent and effective national and international action is called for,

Underlining the need for mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes relating to children,

Recognizing the need for the realization of a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development, the child's protection from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the provision of universal and equal access to primary education and the implementation of the commitments on the education of children contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[19]

Concerned at the number of illegal adoptions, of children growing up without parents and of child victims of family and social violence, neglect and abuse,

Welcoming the adoption of the optional protocols[20] to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,

Recognizing that partnership among Governments, international organizations and all sectors of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations, is important to realizing the rights of the child,

Stressing the importance of integrating child-related issues into the work of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance to be held in 2001, as well as in the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the special session of the General Assembly on the problem of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome in all its aspects,

I. Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

1. *Once again urges* the States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify or accede to the Convention on the Rights of the Child[16] as a matter of priority, with a view to reaching the goal of universal adherence as soon as possible;

2. *Invites* States to consider signing and ratifying the optional protocols to the Convention as a matter of priority with a view to their entry into force as soon as possible, bearing in mind the convening of the special session of the General Assembly for follow-up to the World Summit for Children in September 2001;

[19] Resolution 55/2, para. 19.

[20] Resolution 54/263, annexes I and II.

3. *Reiterates its concern* at the great number of reservations to the Convention, and urges States parties to withdraw reservations that are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention and to review on a regular basis any reservations with a view to withdrawing them;

4. *Calls upon* States parties to implement fully the Convention, stresses that the implementation of the Convention contributes to the achievement of the goals of the World Summit for Children, and recommends that a thorough assessment of ten years of implementation of the Convention be an essential element in the preparation of the special session for the follow-up to the Summit;

5. *Urges* States to assure the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters that affect him or her, the views being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child, and in this regard to involve children and young people in their efforts to implement the goals of the World Summit for Children and the Convention, as well as in other programmes relating to children and youth, as appropriate;

6. *Calls upon* States parties to cooperate closely with the Committee on the Rights of the Child and to comply in a timely manner with their reporting obligations under the Convention, in accordance with the guidelines elaborated by the Committee, and encourages States parties to take into account the recommendations made by the Committee in the implementation of the provisions of the Convention;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the provision of appropriate staff and facilities for the effective and expeditious performance of the functions of the Committee, notes the temporary support given by the plan of action of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to strengthen the important role of the Committee in advancing the implementation of the Convention, and also requests the Secretary-General to make available information on the follow-up to the plan of action;

8. *Calls upon* States parties urgently to take appropriate measures so that acceptance of the amendment to paragraph 2 of article 43 of the Convention by a two-thirds majority of States parties can be reached as soon as possible, in order for the amendment to enter into force, thus increasing the membership of the Committee from ten to eighteen experts, bearing in mind, inter alia, the additional workload of the Committee when the two optional protocols to the Convention enter into force;

9. *Invites* the Committee to continue to enhance its constructive dialogue with the States parties and its transparent and effective functioning;

10. *Recommends* that, within their mandates, all relevant human rights mechanisms and all other relevant organs and mechanisms of the United Nations system and the supervisory bodies of the specialized agencies pay attention to particular situations in which children are in danger and in which their rights are violated and that they take into account the work of the Committee, and encourages the further development of the rights-based approach adopted by the United Nations Children's Fund and further steps to increase system-wide coordination and inter-agency cooperation for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child;

11. *Encourages* the Committee, in monitoring the implementation of the Convention, to continue to pay attention to the needs of children in especially difficult circumstances;

12. *Urges* all States to assign priority to activities and programmes aimed at preventing the abuse of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and inhalants as well as preventing other addictions, in particular addiction to alcohol and tobacco, among children and young people, especially those in vulnerable situations, and urges all States to counter the use of children and young people in the illicit production and trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

13. *Reaffirms* the importance of ensuring adequate and systematic training in the rights of the child for professional groups working with and for children, including specialized judges, law enforcement officials, lawyers, social workers, medical doctors, health professionals and teachers, and of coordination among various governmental bodies involved in children's rights, and encourages States, relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system to continue to promote education and training in this regard;

14. *Encourages* Governments and relevant United Nations bodies, as well as relevant non-governmental organizations and child rights advocates, to contribute, as appropriate, to the web-based database launched by the United Nations Children's Fund so as to continue the provision of information on laws, structures, policies and processes adopted at the national level to translate the Convention into practice and in this regard, commends the Fund for its work to disseminate lessons learned in the implementation of the Convention;

II. Protection and promotion of the rights of children

Identity, family relations and birth registration

1. *Calls upon* all States to intensify efforts to ensure the registration of all children immediately after birth, including through the consideration of simplified, expeditious and effective procedures;

2. *Also calls upon* all States to undertake to respect the right of the child to preserve his or her identity, including nationality, name and family relations as recognized by law without unlawful interference and, where a child is illegally deprived of some or all of the elements of his or her identity, to provide appropriate assistance and protection with a view to re-establishing speedily his or her identity;

3. *Urges* all States to ensure, as far as possible, the right of the child to know and be cared for by his or her parents;

4. *Also urges* all States to ensure that a child shall not be separated from his or her parents against their will, except when the competent authorities, subject to judicial review, determine, in accordance with applicable law and procedures, that such separation is necessary in the best interest of the child and, where alternative care is necessary, to promote family and community-based care in preference to placement in institutions, recognizing that such determination may be necessary in a particular case, such as one involving abuse or neglect of the child by the parents or one in which the parents are living separately and a decision must be made as to the child's place of residence;

5. *Calls upon* States to take all necessary measures to ensure that the best interest of the child is the primary consideration in child adoptions and to take all necessary measures to prevent and combat illegal adoptions of children and adoptions which do not follow the normal procedures;

6. *Also calls upon* States to take all necessary measures to address the problem of children growing up without parents, in particular orphaned children and children who are victims of family and social violence, neglect and abuse;

Health

7. *Calls upon* all States and relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, to pay particular attention to the development of sustainable health systems and social services to ensure the effective prevention of diseases, malnutrition, disabilities and infant and child mortality, including through prenatal and post-natal health care, as well as the provision of necessary medical treatment and health care to all children, taking into consideration the special needs of young children and girls, including prevention of common infectious diseases, the special needs of adolescents, including those relating to reproductive and sexual health and threats from substance abuse and violence, and the particular needs of children living in poverty, children in situations of armed conflict and children in other vulnerable groups, and to strengthen ways of empowering families and communities;

8. *Calls upon* all States to adopt all necessary measures to ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by children affected by disease and malnutrition, including protection from all forms of discrimination, abuse or neglect, in particular in the access to and provision of health care;

9. *Welcomes* the attention given by the Committee on the Rights of the Child to the realization of the highest attainable standards of health and access to health care and to the rights of children affected by human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS);

10. *Urges* States to give particular emphasis to the prevention of HIV infection in young children and strengthen efforts to prevent adolescents and women from becoming HIV-infected, inter alia, by including HIV/AIDS prevention in educational curricula and educational programmes consistent with the epidemiology of the diseases in each State, and by supporting wide-scale voluntary HIV testing and counselling programmes for pregnant women, together with services for HIV-infected pregnant women to reduce the risk of transmitting the virus from HIV/AIDS-infected pregnant women to their children;

11. *Urges* all States to take all necessary measures to protect children infected and/or affected by HIV/AIDS from all forms of discrimination, stigma, abuse and neglect, in particular in the access to and provision of health, education and social services, with a view to the realization of their rights;

12. *Calls upon* the international community, relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their support of national efforts against HIV/AIDS aimed at providing assistance to children infected or affected by the epidemic, including

those orphaned as a result of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, focusing in particular on the worst-hit regions of Africa and areas in which the epidemic is severely setting back national development gains, calls upon them also to give importance to the treatment, care and support of children infected with HIV/AIDS, and invites them to consider further involving the private sector;

Education

13. *Calls upon* States to recognize the right to education on the basis of equal opportunity by making primary education compulsory and ensuring that all children have access to free and relevant primary education, as well as making secondary education generally available and accessible to all, and in particular by the progressive introduction of free education;

14. *Reaffirms* the Dakar Framework for Action and calls for its full implementation and, in this regard, invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue implementing its mandated role in coordinating Education for All partners and maintaining their collaborative momentum;

15. *Calls upon* all States to eliminate the gender gap in education, reaffirms the commitment contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[19] to ensure equal access for girls and boys to all levels of education and the completion of a full course of primary schooling by children everywhere, boys and girls alike, by 2015 and, in this regard, encourages the implementation of the girls' education initiative launched by the Secretary-General at the World Education Forum, held at Dakar from 26 to 28 April 2000;

16. *Calls upon* States to ensure that emphasis is given to the qualitative aspects of education, that the education of the child is carried out, that States parties develop and implement programmes for the education of the child, in accordance with articles 28 and 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and that education is directed, inter alia, to the development of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and to the preparation of the child for a responsible life in a free society in a spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, gender equality and friendship among peoples, ethnic, national and religious groups and persons of indigenous origin, and to ensure that children, from an early age, benefit from education on values, attitudes, modes of behaviour and ways of life that will enable them to resolve any dispute peacefully and in a spirit of respect for human dignity and of tolerance and non-discrimination, bearing in mind the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace;[21]

17. *Calls upon* all States to take all appropriate measures to prevent racist, discriminatory and xenophobic attitudes and behaviour by means of education, keeping in mind the important role that children have to play in changing such practices;

18. *Also calls upon* all States to remove educational disparities and make education accessible to children living in poverty, children living in remote areas, children with special educational needs, children affected by armed conflict and children requiring special protection, including refugee children, migrant children,

[21] Resolution 53/243.

street children, children deprived of their liberty, indigenous children and children belonging to minorities;

19. *Calls upon* States, educational institutions and the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to develop and implement gender-sensitive strategies to address the particular needs of the girl child in education;

Freedom from violence

20. *Reaffirms* the obligation of States to protect children from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

21. *Calls upon* States to take all appropriate measures to prevent and protect children from all forms of violence, including physical, mental and sexual violence, torture, child abuse, abuse by police, other law enforcement authorities and employees and officials in detention centres or welfare institutions, including orphanages, and domestic violence;

22. *Also calls upon* States to investigate and submit cases of torture and other forms of violence against children to the competent authorities for the purpose of prosecution and to impose appropriate disciplinary or penal sanctions against those responsible for such practices;

23. *Requests* all relevant human rights mechanisms, in particular special rapporteurs and working groups, within their mandates, to pay attention to the special situations of violence against children, reflecting their experiences in the field;

24. *Takes note* of the general discussion on State violence against children held by the Committee on the Rights of the Child on 22 September 2000,[22] as well as its recommendation to undertake a comprehensive study on the issue of violence against children, exploring its different forms and identifying its causes, its extent and its impact on children, and welcomes the forthcoming general discussion on violence suffered by children in schools and within the family to be held in September 2001;

III. Promotion and protection of the rights of children in particularly vulnerable situations and non-discrimination against children

Plight of children working and/or living on the streets

1. *Calls upon* Governments to seek comprehensive solutions to the problems that cause children to work and/or live on the streets and to implement appropriate programmes and policies for the protection and the rehabilitation and reintegration of those children, bearing in mind that such children are particularly vulnerable to all forms of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect;

2. *Calls upon* all States to ensure that basic social services, notably education, are provided for children in order to divert them from and to address the

[22] See CRC/C/SR.649 and 650.

economic imperatives that lead to involvement in harmful, exploitative and abusive activity;

3. *Strongly urges* all Governments to guarantee respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the right to life, to take urgent and effective measures to prevent the killing of children working and/or living on the streets, to combat torture and abusive treatment and violence against them and to bring the perpetrators to justice;

4. *Calls upon* all States to take the situation of children working and/or living on the streets into account when preparing reports for submission to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and encourages the Committee and other relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, within their existing mandates, to pay increased attention to the question of children working and/or living on the streets;

5. *Calls upon* the international community to support, through effective international cooperation, including technical advice and assistance, the efforts of States to improve the situation of children working and/or living on the streets;

Refugee and internally displaced children

6. *Urges* Governments to improve the implementation of policies and programmes for the protection, care and well-being of refugee and internally displaced children and for the provision of basic social services, including access to education, with the necessary international cooperation, in particular with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund and the Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons, in accordance with the obligations of States under the Convention on the Rights of the Child;[16]

7. *Calls upon* all States and other parties to armed conflict, as well as United Nations bodies and organizations, to give urgent attention, in terms of protection and assistance, to the fact that refugee and internally displaced children are particularly exposed to risks in connection with armed conflict, such as being forcibly recruited or subjected to sexual violence, abuse or exploitation;

8. *Expresses its deep concern* about the growing number of unaccompanied and/or separated refugee and internally displaced children, and calls upon all States and United Nations bodies and agencies and other relevant organizations to give priority to programmes for family tracing and reunification and to continue to monitor the care arrangements for unaccompanied and/or separated refugee and internally displaced children;

Children with disabilities

9. *Encourages* the working group on the rights of children with disabilities established pursuant to the decision of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to put into practice as soon as possible the recommendations arising from the day of general discussion on the rights of children with disabilities, held on 6 October 1997,[23] including the drafting of a plan of action on children with disabilities, in

[23] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 41* (A/53/41), paras. 1399-1428, and ibid., *Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 41* (A/55/41), paras. 1501-1506.

close cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development and other relevant parts of the United Nations system;

10. *Calls upon* all States to take all necessary measures to ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by children with disabilities, and to develop and enforce legislation against their discrimination so as to ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate the child's active participation in the community, including effective access to educational and health services;

Migrant children

11. *Calls upon* States to protect all human rights of migrant children, in particular unaccompanied migrant children, and to ensure that the best interest of the child shall accordingly be a primary consideration, and encourages the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the United Nations Children's Fund and other relevant United Nations bodies, within their respective mandates, to pay particular attention to the conditions of migrant children in all States and, as appropriate, to make recommendations to strengthen their protection;

12. *Also calls upon* States to cooperate fully with and to assist the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants in addressing the particularly vulnerable conditions of migrant children;

IV. Prevention and eradication of the sale of children and of their sexual exploitation and abuse, including child prostitution and child pornography

1. *Welcomes* the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and expresses its support for her work;[24]

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all necessary human and financial assistance to enable her to discharge her mandate fully;

3. *Calls upon* States to continue to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur and to give full consideration to all of her recommendations;

4. *Invites* further voluntary contributions through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and support for the work of the Special Rapporteur for the effective fulfilment of her mandate;

5. *Welcomes* the large number of signatories to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,[25] and calls upon all States to consider signing and ratifying it as a matter of priority with a view to its entry into force as soon as possible, bearing in mind the convening of the special session of the General Assembly to follow-up the World Summit for Children in September 2001;

6. *Reaffirms* the obligation of States parties to prevent the abduction of, the sale of or the trafficking in children for any purpose or in any form, including the transfer of the organs of the child for profit and to protect children from all forms of

[24] A/55/297.

[25] Resolution 54/263, annex II.

sexual exploitation and abuse, in accordance with articles 35 and 34 of the Convention;[16]

7. *Calls upon* States to take all appropriate steps to combat the misuse of new information and communication technologies, including the Internet, for trafficking in children and for purposes of all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse, in particular the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and notes that the use of such technologies can also contribute to preventing and eradicating such phenomena;

8. *Also calls upon* States to criminalize and to penalize effectively all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse of children, including within the family or for commercial purposes, paedophilia, child pornography and child prostitution, including child sex tourism, while ensuring that the children who are victims of such practices are not penalized, and to take effective measures to ensure the prosecution of offenders, whether local or foreign, by the competent national authorities, either in the country of origin of the offender or in the country in which the abuse takes place, in accordance with due process of law;

9. *Calls upon* all States Members to take all necessary steps to strengthen international cooperation by means of multilateral, regional and bilateral arrangements for the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution and punishment of those responsible for acts involving the sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography and child sex tourism and, in this regard, calls upon Member States to promote international cooperation and coordination among their authorities, national and international non-governmental organizations and international organizations, as appropriate;

10. *Requests* States to increase cooperation and concerted action at the national, regional and international levels to prevent and dismantle networks that traffick in children;

11. *Stresses* the need to combat the existence of a market that encourages such criminal practices against children, including through preventive and enforcement measures that target customers or individuals who sexually exploit or abuse children;

12. *Calls upon* States to enact, enforce, review and revise, as appropriate, laws and to implement policies, programmes and practices to protect children from and to eliminate all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse, including commercial sexual exploitation, taking into account the particular problems posed by the use of the Internet in this regard;

13. *Encourages* Governments to facilitate the active participation of child victims of sexual exploitation and abuse in the development and implementation of strategies to protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse;

14. *Encourages* continued regional and interregional efforts, with the objective of identifying best practices and issues requiring particularly urgent action, and takes note of the convening of the Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children at Yokohama, Japan, from 17 to 20 December 2001, which is to be hosted by the Government of Japan in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund and which is aimed at reviewing progress in implementing the Declaration and Agenda for Action adopted by the World

Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held at Stockholm from 27 to 31 August 1996;[26]

15. *Invites* States and relevant United Nations bodies and agencies to allocate appropriate resources for the rehabilitation of child victims of sexual exploitation and abuse and to take all appropriate measures to promote their full recovery and social reintegration;

V. Protection of children affected by armed conflict

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the impact of armed conflict on children,[27] and takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict;[28]

2. *Expresses its support* for the work of the Special Representative in the fulfilment of his mandate, as established in paragraphs 35 to 37 of General Assembly resolution 51/77 of 12 December 1996, in particular in raising worldwide awareness and mobilizing official and public opinion for the protection of children affected by armed conflict in order to promote respect for the rights and needs of children in conflict and post-conflict situations;

3. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General and all relevant parts of the United Nations system, including the Special Representative and the United Nations Children's Fund, to further intensify their efforts to continue to develop a concerted approach to the rights, protection and welfare of children affected by armed conflict, including, as appropriate, in the preparations for the field visits of the Special Representative and in the follow-up to such visits;

4. *Calls upon* all States and other parties concerned to continue to cooperate with the Special Representative in implementing the commitments that they have undertaken and to consider carefully all of the recommendations of the Special Representative and address the issues identified;

5. *Welcomes* the continued support for and voluntary contributions to the work of the Special Representative in the fulfilment of his mandate.

6. *Also welcomes* the large number of signatories to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict,[29] and calls upon all States to consider signing and ratifying it as a matter of priority with a view to its entry into force as soon as possible, bearing in mind the convening of the special session of the General Assembly to follow-up the World Summit for Children in September 2001;

7. *Urges* all States and other parties to armed conflict to respect international humanitarian law and to put an end to any form of targeting of children and to attacking sites that usually have a significant presence of children, calls upon States parties to respect fully the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[30] and the Additional Protocols thereto, of 1977,[31] and calls upon all

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[26] A/51/385, annex.
[27] A/55/442.
[28] A/55/163-S/2000/712.
[29] Resolution 54/263, annex I.
[30] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.
[31] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

parties to armed conflict to take all measures required to protect children from acts that constitute violations of international humanitarian law, including prosecution by States, within their national legal framework, of those responsible for such violations;

8. *Recognizes*, in this regard, the contribution of the establishment of the International Criminal Court to ending impunity for perpetrators of certain crimes committed against children, as defined in the Statute of the Court,[32] which include those involving sexual violence or child soldiers, and thus to the prevention of such crimes;

9. *Stresses* the importance of all relevant United Nations actors in the field improving their reporting, within their respective mandates, concerning the situation of children affected by armed conflict and give additional attention to this question;

10. *Condemns* the abduction of children in situations of armed conflict and into armed conflict, urges States, international organizations and other concerned parties to take all appropriate measures to secure the unconditional release, rehabilitation, reintegration and family reunification of all abducted children, and urges States to bring the perpetrators to justice;

11. *Calls upon* States to ensure that the adoption of children in situations of armed conflict is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and that the best interest of the child is always envisaged as a paramount consideration;

12. *Urges* States and all other parties to armed conflict to end the use of children as soldiers, to ensure their demobilization and effective disarmament and to implement effective measures for their rehabilitation, physical and psychological recovery and reintegration into society, further encourages efforts by, inter alia, regional organizations, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to bring an end to the use of children as soldiers in armed conflict, and emphasizes that no support shall be given to those who systematically abuse or violate the rights of children during armed conflicts;

13. *Underlines* the importance of including measures to ensure the rights of the child, inter alia, in the areas of health and nutrition, formal, informal or non-formal education, physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration, in emergency and other humanitarian assistance policies and programmes;

14. *Notes* the importance of the third open debate held in the Security Council, on 26 July 2000, on children and armed conflict and the undertaking provided by the Council to give special attention to the protection, welfare and rights of children when taking action aimed at maintaining peace and security, and reaffirms the essential role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in the promotion and protection of the rights and welfare of children;

15. *Calls upon* all parties to armed conflict to ensure the full, safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel and the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all children affected by armed conflict;

16. *Welcomes* agreed conclusions 1999/1 of the Economic and Social Council, in which the Council, inter alia, calls for systematic, concerted and comprehensive inter-agency efforts on behalf of children, as well as adequate and

[32] See A/CONF.183/9, art. 8.

sustainable resource allocation, to provide both immediate emergency assistance to and long-term measures for children throughout all the phases of an emergency;[33]

17. *Urges* States to implement effective measures for the rehabilitation, physical and psychological recovery and reintegration into society of all child victims in cases of armed conflict, invites the international community to assist in this endeavour and further emphasizes the importance of giving systematic consideration to the special needs and particular vulnerability of the girl child during conflicts and in post-conflict situations;

18. *Calls upon* States and relevant United Nations bodies to continue to support national and international mine-action efforts, including by means of financial contributions, mine-awareness programmes, victim assistance and child-centred rehabilitation, and welcomes the positive effects on children of concrete legislative measures with respect to anti-personnel mines;

19. *Invites* States, multilateral donors and the private sector to cooperate and to commit the resources necessary for the early development of new and more efficient mine-detection and mine-clearance technologies for assistance in mine action;

20. *Notes with concern* the impact of small arms and light weapons on children in situations of armed conflict, in particular as a result of their illicit production and traffic, and calls upon States to address this problem, inter alia, during the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, to be held in 2001;

21. *Recommends* that, whenever sanctions are imposed, their impact on children be assessed and monitored and that humanitarian exemptions be child-focused and formulated with clear guidelines for their application;

22. *Calls upon* States, relevant United Nations bodies and agencies and regional organizations to integrate the rights of the child into all activities in conflict and post-conflict situations, including training programmes and emergency relief operations, country programmes and field operations aimed at promoting peace and preventing and resolving conflict, as well as the negotiation and implementation of peace agreements, and, given the long-term consequences for society, underlines the importance of including specific provisions for children, including resourcing, in peace agreements and in arrangements negotiated by parties;

23. *Calls upon* all States, in accordance with the norms of international humanitarian law, to integrate in the training and gender-sensitized education programmes of their armed forces, including those for peacekeeping, instruction on responsibilities towards the civilian population, in particular women and children;

24. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations to encourage the involvement of young people in activities concerning the protection of children affected by armed conflict, including programmes for reconciliation, peace consolidation, peace-building and children-to-children networks;

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[33] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/54/3/Rev.1), chap. VI, para. 22.

25. *Welcomes* the holding of the International Conference on War-Affected Children at Winnipeg, Canada, from 10 to 17 September 2000, and notes with appreciation the Winnipeg Agenda for War-Affected Children[14] and efforts by regional organizations, in particular the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the Organization of American States and the Organization of African Unity, to include prominently the rights and protection of children affected by armed conflict in their policies and programmes.

VI. Progressive elimination of child labour

1. *Reaffirms* the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development;

2. *Welcomes* the adoption by the International Labour Organization, at the eighty-seventh session of the International Labour Conference, held at Geneva from 1 to 17 June 1999, of the Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, Convention No. 182, and calls upon all States to consider ratifying it;

3. *Calls upon* all States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying the conventions of the International Labour Organization relating to child labour, in particular the Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour, 1930, Convention No. 29, and the Convention concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, 1973, Convention No. 138, and to implement those conventions;

4. *Also calls upon* all States to translate into concrete action their commitment to the progressive and effective elimination of child labour contrary to accepted international standards, and urges them, inter alia, to eliminate immediately the worst forms of child labour as set out in the new International Labour Organization Convention No. 182;

5. *Further calls upon* all States to assess and examine systematically the magnitude, nature and causes of child labour and to elaborate and implement strategies for the elimination of child labour contrary to accepted international standards, giving special attention to specific dangers faced by girls, as well as to the rehabilitation and social reintegration of the children concerned;

6. *Recognizes* that primary education is one of the main instruments for reintegrating child workers, calls upon all States to recognize the right to education by making primary education compulsory and to ensure that all children have equal access to free primary education as a key strategy to prevent child labour, and recognizes, in particular, the important role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund in this regard;

7. *Calls upon* all States and the United Nations system to strengthen international cooperation as a means of assisting Governments in preventing or combating violations of the rights of the child and in attaining the objective of eliminating child labour contrary to accepted international standards.

[14] See A/55/467-S/2000/971.

8. *Calls upon* all States to strengthen cooperation and coordination at the national and international levels to address effectively the problem of child labour, in close cooperation with, inter alia, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund;

VII

Decides:

(a) To request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session a report on the rights of the child containing information on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child[16] and the problems addressed in the present resolution;

(b) To request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the impact of armed conflict on children to submit to the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights reports containing relevant information on the situation of children affected by armed conflict, bearing in mind existing mandates and reports of relevant bodies;

(c) To continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-sixth session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of the child".

• • •

15. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

The General Assembly takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.[35]

[16] A/55/201

United Nations A/55/599

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Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Anzhela **Korneliouk** (Belarus)

I. Introduction

1. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 11 September 2000, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 24th, 25th, 31st and 37th meetings, on 16, 17, 23 and 26 October 2000. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/55/SR.24, 25, 31 and 37).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations (A/55/202);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the programme of activities for the Decade (A/55/268).

4. At the 24th meeting, on 16 October, an introductory statement was made by the Director of the New York Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (see A/C.3/55/SR.24).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.19

5. At the 31st meeting, on 23 October, the representative of Denmark, on behalf of Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia,

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Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Peru, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Venezuela, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International Decade of the World's Indigenous People" (A/C.3/55/L.19). Subsequently, the Dominican Republic, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Paraguay and the Russian Federation joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At its 37th meeting, on 26 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.19 without a vote (see para. 8).

7. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Guatemala (see A/C.3/55/SR.37).

III. Recommendation of the Third Committee

8. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/150 of 17 December 1999 and previous resolutions on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People,

Recalling also that the goal of the Decade is to strengthen international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as human rights, the environment, development, education and health and that the theme of the Decade is "Indigenous people: partnership in action",

Recognizing the importance of consultation and cooperation with indigenous people in planning and implementing the programme of activities for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People,[1] the need for adequate financial support from the international community, including support from within the United Nations system, and the need for adequate coordination and communication channels,

Urging all parties to continue to intensify their efforts to achieve the goals of the Decade,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the programme of activities for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People;[2]

2. *Affirms its conviction* of the value and diversity of the cultures and forms of social organization of indigenous people and its conviction that the development

[1] Resolution 50/157, annex.

[2] A/55/268.

of indigenous people within their countries will contribute to the socio-economic, cultural and environmental advancement of all the countries of the world;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of strengthening the human and institutional capacity of indigenous people to develop their own solutions to their problems;

4. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as coordinator for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People:

(a) To continue to promote the objectives of the Decade, taking into account, in the fulfilment of her functions, the special concerns of the indigenous people;

(b) To give due regard to the dissemination, from within existing resources and voluntary contributions, of information on the situation, cultures, languages, rights and aspirations of indigenous people and, in that context, to consider the possibility of organizing projects, special events, exhibitions and other activities addressed to the public, in particular to young people;

(c) To submit, through the Secretary-General, an annual report to the General Assembly on the implementation of the programme of activities for the Decade;

5. *Reaffirms* the adoption of a declaration on the rights of indigenous people as a major objective of the Decade, and underlines the importance of effective participation by indigenous representatives in the open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Human Rights charged with developing a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people, established pursuant to Commission resolution 1995/32 of 3 March 1995;[3]

6. *Welcomes* the decision of the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2000/22 of 28 July 2000, to establish a Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues as a subsidiary organ of the Council, thereby fulfilling an important objective of the Decade, and encourages all parties concerned to engage in the necessary preparations for the establishment of the Forum;

7. *Encourages* Governments to support the Decade by:

(a) Preparing relevant programmes, plans and reports in relation to the Decade, in consultation with indigenous people;

(b) Seeking means, in consultation with indigenous people, of giving indigenous people greater responsibility for their own affairs and an effective voice in decisions on matters that affect them;

(c) Establishing national committees or other mechanisms involving indigenous people to ensure that the objectives and activities of the Decade are planned and implemented on the basis of full partnership with indigenous people;

(d) Contributing to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Decade for the World's Indigenous People;

(e) Contributing, together with other donors, to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations in order to assist indigenous representatives in participating in the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and the open-

[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Human Rights charged with elaborating a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people;

(f) Considering contributing, as appropriate, to the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean, in support of the goals of the Decade;

(g) Identifying resources for activities designed to implement the goals of the Decade, in cooperation with indigenous people and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

8. *Invites* United Nations financial and developmental institutions, operational programmes and the specialized agencies and secretariats, as well as other regional and international organizations, in accordance with the existing procedures of their governing bodies:

(a) To give increased priority and resources to improving the conditions of indigenous people, with particular emphasis on the needs of those people in developing countries, including through the preparation of specific programmes of action for the implementation of the goals of the Decade, within their areas of competence;

(b) To launch special projects, through appropriate channels and in cooperation with indigenous people, to strengthen their community-level initiatives and to facilitate the exchange of information and expertise among indigenous people and other relevant experts;

(c) To designate focal points for the coordination of activities related to the Decade with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

and commends those institutions, programmes, agencies and regional and international organizations that have already done so;

9. *Recommends* that the Secretary-General ensure coordinated follow-up to the recommendations concerning indigenous people of relevant United Nations conferences, namely, the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 3 to 14 June 1992, the International Conference on Population and Development, held at Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994, the Fourth World Conference on Women, held at Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995, the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held at Istanbul, Turkey, from 3 to 14 June 1996, and the World Food Summit, held at Rome from 13 to 17 November 1996, and other relevant international conferences;

10. *Emphasizes* the importance of the participation of indigenous people in United Nations world conferences and their national, regional and other preparatory processes, in particular the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, to be held in South Africa in 2001, and encourages Member States to facilitate the participation of their indigenous people, inter alia, by considering including representatives of indigenous people in their delegations;

11. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit, through the Secretary-General, a report on the implementation of the programme of activities of the Decade to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People".